Clinton County Connection

Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. • cceci@cceci.com • www.cceci.com

Fourteen scholarships up for grabs

Illinois electric cooperatives will award 14 scholarships in 2022 to financially assist students in the electric cooperative family. The scholarships, $2,000 each, will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

8 scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric co-op member.

4 additional scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

1 scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director.

1 scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship, will help pay for costs to attend lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL. Sons and daughters of co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or directors, and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for this scholarship.

Deadline to apply for the first 13 scholarships is Dec. 31, 2021. The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2022. For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Carrie Trame at 800-526-7282 or trame@cceci.com. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available online at https://aiec.coop/iec-scholarship/?coop=CTN.

Holiday décor tips for an energy-wise home

Whether you've already decked your halls or you're just getting started, there's still time to incorporate energy savings into your holiday décor planning.

If you haven't strung your twinkle lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights and can last 40 holiday seasons. They're also safer because they're made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them more resistant to breaking. Plus, they're cool to the touch, so no burnt fingers!

If you missed Santa's memo about energy-saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is a programmable light timer. Most models cost between $10 to $25 and can be purchased through online retailers like Amazon or at big box stores like Lowe's or Walmart. With a light timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off, which will save you time, money and energy. If you're using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it's weatherproof and intended for outdoor use.

If Clark Griswold's décor style is a bit much for your taste, consider a more natural approach. Many Christmas tree farms, and even retailers like Lowe's and Home Depot, give away greenery clippings from recently trimmed trees. With a little twine, extra ornaments and sparkly ribbon, you can create beautiful garlands and wreaths to hang over your front door or windows. To add extra twinkle at night, you can install solar-powered spotlights to illuminate your new (essentially free!) greenery. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be able to purchase a quality set of four for about $30. Because they run on natural energy from the sun, there's no additional cost to your energy bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are plenty of ways to save energy throughout the season.

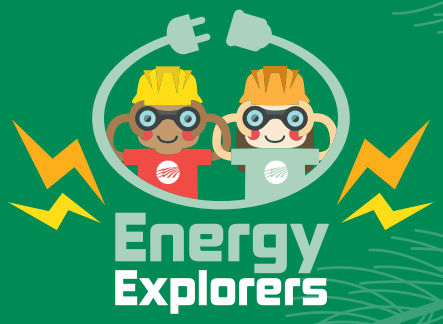
2022 Youth Day and Youth Tour

Since COVID-19 prevented Youth Day and Youth Tour from happening in 2020 and 2021, Clinton County Electric is sponsoring up to 12 area sophomores, juniors or SENIORS to attend Youth Day in Springfield to be held on March 29, 2022, sponsored by the cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Two attending Youth Day will be selected to go to Washington, D.C. from June 17-24, 2022 for an all-expense-paid trip. See our January 2022 issue for more details.

HOLIDAY SAFETY WORD SEARCH

Remember to keep electrical safety in mind this holiday season!

Read the safety tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.



D T T X M L N L W V B H G P M
P E Y E N H S A G E T Q W C O
D C R A K P T C K J X N C J Q
E X R E I O J I T B S L E Y I
M P W W T W F R V V Z U U V J
X R K Z Z A T T L X W L M X Y
D T Z G P N W C C N L Z A H Z
I N S P E C T E D P F R R Z T
D P G V B E E L L Q P H V W F
A J K F L B A E S K H I Z W M
N M V D T W V X R I R B H U C
C O N B B R W O H O W Q N Q P
X A W X S N O I T A R O C E D
C K L B T K R A J B C M D Y P
X C M A Y S K B O Y Q M Q K Q

- Do not overload electrical outlets with too many **decorations** or appliances.
- Make sure your Christmas tree is **watered** daily.
- Turn off all **electrical** decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.
- Never leave a **candle** burning if you're not in the room.
- Extension cords used for holiday decorations should always be **inspected** for damage or exposed wires.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Thursday, December 23 & Friday, December 24
Thursday, December 30 & Friday, December 31

Although the office will be closed, view your account information and pay your bill 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by visiting our website www.cceci.com or by calling 800-526-7282.

The Trustees and Employees of Clinton County Electric wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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