



# MIDSTATE CONNECTION

Office Hours: 7:00 am-5:30 pm, Monday-Thursday  
Closed Fridays & Holidays

Business Hours: 541-536-2126  
After Hours Outages: 800-752-5935



## Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.

We want to send two student delegates to represent Midstate Electric at the National Rural Electric Cooperative (NRECA) Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. on June 16-22, 2024.

America's electric cooperatives have been bringing young leaders from rural America to Washington, D.C. on the "Trip of a Lifetime" since the 1950's.

Tens of thousands of lives have been impacted and changed through this incredible program!

This all expenses-paid trip is a unique opportunity for high school sophomores or juniors in our service territory.

During the trip, students will tour museums, visit historic monuments, meet with elected officials, explore Capitol Hill, and learn about the impact electric cooperatives have on the communities they serve.

Students can apply on our website at <https://www.midstateelectric.coop/youth-tour>. Call 541-536-2126 option 5 for additional information.

**The deadline to apply is  
Wednesday, January 31, 2024.**

## MEC Pays Capital Credits to Members

Your Midstate Electric Cooperative board of directors has reviewed the financial condition of the cooperative and is pleased to announce the retirement of \$1,300,000 in capital credits. In mid-December, members who purchased power during 2007 and a portion of 2008 will receive capital credit refunds in proportion to how much they contributed to that year's margins. Because electric cooperatives operate at cost, any excess revenues (margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits. Margins are retained by the cooperative and used for several years as opposed to borrowing money, thus lowering the cost of providing electricity.

Members look forward to receiving a little



Check your mail if you were a member in 2007-2008.

extra cash around the holidays each year. This cash, provided by capital credit refunds, is just one of the advantages of doing business the cooperative way.

## Stay Safe During a Winter Power Outage

**Whether there is planned power outage or mother nature strikes, you should be prepared with an easily accessible emergency kit.**

Supplies should include:

- **A flashlight, headlamps, battery or solar-powered lantern, radio, and fresh batteries.** Keep the batteries separate until you are ready to use them.
- **Candles and matches.** Do not leave lit candles unattended.
- **Bottled drinking water.** Store at least 1 gallon per person per day. If a storm is in the forecast, fill the bathtub with water so bathroom facilities can still be used by pouring a bucket of water down the toilet to create a vacuum flush.
- **Kindling and dry firewood** if you have a fireplace or wood stove.
- **Clothing.** In cooler weather, wear extra

layers and a hat. Have sleeping bags and blankets handy, too.

- **Easy-to-prepare food items.** Buy items that do not require much cooking. Canned or instant soups, stews, chili, packaged freeze-dried meals, and protein or breakfast bars are good to have on hand.
- **Gas camp stoves, lanterns, or barbecues.** Make sure to have extra fuel for cooking outdoors. Never use a camp stove or barbecue indoors. Be sure to use any lanterns on a flat, stable, and nonflammable surface.
- **An ample supply of essential prescription medications and over-the-counter drugs.** During a storm, road travel may not be possible for several days.
- **A first-aid kit.** Make sure all supplies are filled and ready to go. If you have a medical condition, have a backup plan to enact at a moment's notice.

Let's get connected on social media so you'll never miss an update on MEC activities, programs, and contests.



# Holiday Lighting Safety Tips

As you decorate your homes and businesses for the holiday season, please keep safety on your mind.

The following tips can help keep your family bright, happy and safe:

- ▶ Use holiday lights that are approved by a nationally recognized testing organization, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
  - ▶ Before hanging your lights, inspect them for frayed wires, broken sockets or other signs of wear and tear.
  - ▶ Avoid connecting more than three strings of lights together, unless the directions indicate otherwise.
  - ▶ When using extension cords, avoid routing them under rugs or near walkways.
  - ▶ If you decorate a real tree, water it every day and prevent the lights from coming into contact with tree branches.
  - ▶ If you choose an artificial tree, make sure it's certified as fire resistant.
- ▶ Look for the UL label.
  - ▶ For outdoor decorating, only use lights and power strips that have been approved for outdoor use.
  - ▶ Keep electrical connections off the ground and make sure wiring is clear of downspouts, railings and aluminum siding.
  - ▶ Fasten holiday lights securely to buildings, trees and other outdoor surfaces to prevent damage from wind or jostling.
  - ▶ Be careful when using metal staples or nails as fasteners. They can damage the protective insulation covering the wires.
  - ▶ Turn off lights late at night or whenever you are away from home. Consider using a timer.

While safety is your first concern, don't forget about energy efficiency. LED lights use up to 80% less energy than traditional lights and they have a longer lifespan. LEDs are also cool to the touch, reducing the risk of fire. Look for LEDs that are ENERGY STAR® certified.

## ENTER OUR 'LIGHT UP THE SEASON' CONTEST!

Submit a photo or video of your home or business holiday light display by December 14th on our website: <https://www.midstateelectric.coop/lightcontest>

1st prize- \$200 BILL CREDIT, 2nd prize - \$100 BILL CREDIT, 3rd prize - \$50 BILL CREDIT

# Happy Holidays

Spark joy and light this holiday season. From our co-op family to yours, we wish you a safe and warm season with friends and loved ones.

Our office will be closed on Monday, December 25, 2023 and Monday, January 1, 2024 in observance of the holidays. Our outage line is available 24/7 at 800-752-5935.

# Congratulations!

## National Co-op Month Winners

In recognition of National Cooperative Month in



October, Midstate Electric held drawings for nine members to receive a \$100 credit on their electric bills. There were five winners drawn from entry forms in Ruralite and the Midstate Connection Newsletter and four from members who have liked, shared, or commented on our "Co-ops Grow" campaign on social media. This year's Co-op Month winners were:

- Dawn McLemore
- Heather Dollarhyde
- Wade Dennis
- Kara Collins
- Shirley Smith
- John Sakraida
- Jerry & Shirley Kinyon
- Ransom Smith
- Bruce Kasten

Look for details for next year's drawing in October 2024.

## 13 Days of Thanksgiving Winners



In October, we also held our "13 Days of Thanksgiving" contest. Members entered the contest to win a free turkey by mailing in or dropping off our entry form found in Ruralite and our Midstate Connection Newsletter. We hope our 13 winners enjoyed the turkey with their family over Thanksgiving. This year's turkey winners were:

- Jim & Barb Brainard
- Carol Dudash
- Geri Wilkerson
- Shelley Engलगau
- Karen Henderson
- Anne Bevel
- Rhonda Anson
- Don Clark
- Laurie Cima
- Jamie Smith
- Mary Crecelius
- Janet & Danny Gilliland
- Kaye Weaver

Thank you to Grocery Outlet for having the turkeys ready for pick up for our winners!