

energy update



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Attention high school students!

High schoolers who attend Zoom sessions in October will have a chance to win AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship!

Iowa's electric cooperatives are pleased to once again offer a virtual opportunity for rural students to learn more about advocacy, electric cooperative opportunities and the cooperative business model with a three-part webinar series in October. The Iowa Youth Leadership Academy is open to any high school student in our service area. They are invited to register at <http://www.IowaYouthTour.com>.

"This program is perfect for rural Iowa students who have a passion for public service, leadership or government," said ACEC General Manager Hollee McCormick. "We want to raise students' awareness of how local electric co-ops power people's lives and empower communities. We also want to talk about exciting cooperative career paths that are available."

Once students register online for the academy, they can attend the webinars from their own computer or mobile device. Each Zoom session begins at 7 p.m., lasts about 45-60 minutes and focuses on a specific topic:

- Thursday, Oct. 2 – Cooperative Business Model
- Tuesday, Oct. 14 – Advocacy
- Thursday, Oct. 23 – Leadership

At the end of each live session, one attendee will be selected at random to win a pair of Apple AirPods. Students who attend all three sessions will be entered into a random drawing for a \$1,000 college scholarship. All students who register online by Sept. 30 will receive a special box of co-op goodies in the mail.

During the Zoom sessions, students will learn how to advocate for issues that are important to them and build leadership skills from a dynamic speaker. Attendees will also hear about Iowa Youth Tour. Students with an interest in government and public service are encouraged to apply for this weeklong complimentary trip to Washington D.C. The 2026 Youth Tour is slated for June 14-20, 2026.

Learn more at <https://acrec.com/iowa-youth-leadership-academy> or contact Jennifer Achenbach at 563-864-7611 or jachenbach@acrec.coop for more information.

**WANTED:
Rural Iowa
high school
students
who have a
passion for
leadership**



Attend our webinar series in October for a chance to win Apple AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship! Learn more at IowaYouthTour.com



SCHOLARSHIP

Stay safe this hunting season in more ways than one

With hunting season soon upon us, hunters should remember to survey their surroundings before aiming at the next big prize. Take a moment to look up and out for power lines before starting the hunt.

“While electrical safety may not be top of mind when starting a hunt, contact with a power line, utility pole or related equipment can alter the path to ground, sending electricity through anyone or anything that comes too close or in direct contact with the power source,” said Erin Hollinshead, executive director of Safe Electricity. “Even coming within 10 feet can cause an arc, transferring energy from the power line/source to an object or person.”

Be safe out there and follow these guidelines:

- ▶ Write and share a hunting plan. Where will the hunt take place and for how long?
- ▶ Wear blaze orange.
- ▶ Know the hunting area. Check national forest boundaries and avoid private land. Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.
- ▶ Do not lean tree stands against utility poles. Keep them far from overhead power lines.
- ▶ Watch for power lines in wooded areas. Make sure they will not be in your line of sight when shooting.
- ▶ Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans. They can drop to the ground and energize it or cause a fire.
- ▶ Wear a full-body harness when in a tree stand to prevent falls that can cause serious injury.
- ▶ Check tree stands regularly; they can deteriorate over time.

- ▶ Watch for warning signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening condition. Hunters can walk far distances when shooting and dragging an animal. Completing these activities (especially if the person is not otherwise active) can increase the heart rate and induce heart attacks.
- ▶ Have a way to get in touch with the outside world. Keep your cell phone in a pocket rather than a pack. Take a portable battery charger.
- ▶ Always carry a first-aid kit.
- ▶ Respect firearms: Have the safety on, handle the gun like it is always loaded, always point it away from others and know what and where the target is.



TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Solar energy is rising in popularity, and so are solar scams. If a salesperson knocks on your door promising free solar panels at zero cost or that you'll never have to pay your energy bill again, it's likely a scam. If you're interested in solar panels for your home, do your research, get multiple quotes from licensed providers who are reputable, and most importantly, take your time to ensure a smooth process.

Source: Federal Trade Commission



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of “shoulder months,” which refer to the transitional periods between peak heating and cooling seasons. During the fall, these milder weeks typically occur between September and November. Shoulder months offer a great opportunity to reduce home energy consumption as the need for extensive heating or cooling is reduced. Look for simple ways to boost indoor comfort without running your heating and cooling system. Use ceiling fans and open windows on breezy days to ventilate your home. On cooler days, add a layer of clothing and avoid running the heat.

