

Youth to Washington Tour

Each year, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives hosts Youth Day, bringing together more than 300 students in Springfield from across the state representing their local electric and telephone cooperatives. Heidi Hall, member services manager for Shelby Electric stated, “Youth Day is one of the cooperative’s biggest youth events, recognizing exceptional local students.”

The annual event brings leadership lessons, tours of historical sites, and a visit to the State Capitol to meet with senators and representatives. For a few lucky students, this day is just the beginning; interviews at the conclusion of the day determine who represents their local cooperative on the Youth to Washington Tour to be held in June.

“Unfortunately, the 2020 Youth Day ended up with a completely different look – CANCELED,” Hall stated. Scheduled for March 31, 2020, Youth Day was canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Hall continued, “COVID-19 has made some drastic impacts on large events; ours was no exception. Keeping everyone safe is the priority. The Youth to Washington Tour in June has also been canceled for 2020.”

Shelby Electric Cooperative would like to acknowledge the 18 students selected by their school districts to attend Youth Day (in no particular order):

- Adam Fearday, Neoga High School
- Claire Cardinal, Neoga High School
- Robert LeCates, Meridian High School
- Zoey Hayes, Meridian High School
- Ethan Suarez, Okaw Valley High School
- Carleigh Bobbett, Okaw Valley High School
- Dawson Boys, Stew-Stras High School
- Mariah Hoene, Stew-Stras High School
- Jackson Sarver, Cowden-Herrick High School
- Mason Manley, Cowden-Herrick High School
- Boone Elledge, Pana High School
- Brock Schoonover, Pana High School
- Kaylee Lawrence, Central A&M High School
- Abigail Vidmar, Central A&M High School
- Maia Casterline, Nokomis High School
- Madigan Hoffman, Nokomis High School
- Andi Hall, Shelbyville High School
- Zachary Hood, Shelbyville High School



Youth Tour winners: Claire Cardinal, daughter of Chad and MarySue Cardinal of Neoga, and Zachary Hood, son of James Hood and Amber Hood of Shelbyville

Although Youth Day had been canceled, the cooperative scheduled phone and FaceTime interviews to select winners for the Youth to Washington Tour. Interviews were conducted on March 25 and 26. Since Youth Tour was also canceled, winners have been given the option of going on the 2021 Youth Tour.

“We want to acknowledge our Youth Tour winners: Claire Cardinal, daughter of Chad and MarySue Cardinal of Neoga, and Zachary Hood, son of James Hood and Amber Hood of Shelbyville, for their efforts in applying and interviewing for this opportunity. They deserve to be recognized,” noted Hall.

Runner-ups were Abigail Vidmar, daughter of Pam and John Vidmar of Assumption, and Adam Fearday, son of Stan and Shari Fearday of Sigel.

Congratulations to all participating students! Stay safe and stay healthy!



It's important to be counted.

Participate in the 2020 Census.

Shelby Electric Cooperative encourages everyone to participate in the 2020 Census. Doing so will help your community receive the financial assistance it needs to stay viable and growing. This opportunity only happens every 10 years – let's make the most of it! Visit www.my2020census.gov to do your part.

- > The census is a **total population count of the United States** that is taken every 10 years. This is required by the U.S. Constitution.
- > Census data **directly impacts the funding our communities receive** for the next decade.
- > The census data **helps determine annual allocation of \$675 billion in federal dollars, grants, and other financial assistance opportunities** for our communities and other communities across the U.S.
- > The 2020 Census **began in late March**. Households can respond to the questionnaire once they receive their official letter by going online, by phone, or by mail.

THE CENSUS WILL NEVER ASK FOR

- ✗ Social Security numbers
- ✗ Bank or credit card numbers
- ✗ Money or donations
- ✗ Anything political
- ✗ Citizenship status



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COUNT US IN 
ILLINOIS

Visit www.my2020census.gov to do your part.



Inform your teen about electrical safety

Parents of teens can relate. You want to share important information with your teen but he or she braces for the next lecture. Your teen may give you the quintessential eye roll, but sharing this safety information could help save his or her life. Relay this information to your teenager to prevent electrical shock.



They cost more, but they are less likely to malfunction.

- **DO NOT** charge your cell phone, tablet, or other devices on soft surfaces such as a blanket, pillow, or bedding.

On the road

- If you are in an accident involving a downed power line, a damaged padmount transformer, or other electrical equipment, **call 911** and **DO NOT** get out of your car. Only get out if there is smoke or your car is on fire. If that is the case, make a clean exit from the vehicle (by jumping out without touching the car) and hop with feet together as far as you can. **DO NOT WALK.** If there is damaged power equipment, the ground and anything else the lines touch could have electrical current running through it.
- If you approach an accident with a downed power line, **DO NOT** attempt to help the victims and do

not go near the scene. Instead, call 911 and warn others not to approach the area.

Outside

- **DO NOT** use plugged in devices (e.g. a charging cell phone) near water such as a pool, hot tub, or in damp conditions.
- If you are swimming in a lake and feel odd sensations in your body, such as tingling or zaps, swim away from the dock or other source of electricity (e.g. lights). Sometimes electrical currents can leak into the water and can cause an electric shock drowning. If you feel odd sensations in a wading pool, hot tub, or swimming pool, get out!

Although you may not cover all of these tips with your children in one sitting, they are important to talk about and could prevent injuries and, more importantly, save their lives. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

At home

- **DO NOT** use a cell phone near the bathtub or sink or with wet hands while it is plugged in and charging. Do not use an extension cord in the bathroom to extend your phone's reach closer to the tub. Teens have died after a charging phone was dropped into bath water.
- **DO NOT** sleep with your charging cell phone under your pillow or in bed with you. The phone can overheat, causing bedding to catch on fire or burn skin. Also, a short in the charging cord can cause electrical shock when using your phone. This is especially a risk when using generic or incompatible charging equipment. Always replace charging equipment with brand name/matching items.



REAL LIFE REAL POWER

Getting Real with Marla and Summer Safety

At the time this article is being written, most of us are practicing sheltering-in-place and many are working from home. However, summer is just around the corner and that will mean most of us will spend more time outside regardless of the COVID-19 status. May is National Electrical Safety Month, so it is the perfect time to review precautions that may prevent an electrical injury or even death.

Lightning is an electric arc between one cloud and the earth or another cloud. June, July, and August are when the most lightning accidents occur. According to the State Climatologist Office for Illinois, 85 percent of victims struck by lightning are children and young men. At the first sound of thunder or sighting of lightning, take shelter. If you are unable to find shelter, follow this advice provided by the National Weather Service:

- ⚡ Avoid open fields and the top of a hill.
- ⚡ Stay away from isolated trees or other tall objects. If you are in a wooded area, stay near a lower stand of trees.
- ⚡ Stay away from water, wet items, and metal objects.
- ⚡ If you are in a group, spread out to prevent the current traveling between group members.

Lightning may not be the only reason that statistics show an



increase in the number of electrical fatalities and injuries in summer. People are more likely to be participating in activities in and around water. It is not safe to be near electrical items while in the water or standing on wet surfaces. Skin being wet from perspiration can also reduce resistance to electrical current.

Additionally, outside work and projects often involve large, tall equipment such as farm equipment, ladders, poles, and extendable items. Keep at least 10 feet of clearance between the top of equipment and power lines. Be sure to point out the locations of electrical wires to contract or seasonal employees. If equipment makes contact with

poles or wires, stay in the tractor or truck and phone 911. Only jump in the case of imminent danger, such as fire, and bunny hop or shuffle as far away as possible. Do not make contact with the equipment and the ground at the same time.

It can be easy to forget about the dangers of electricity when we get caught up in our work or recreational activities. Shelby Electric Cooperative wants you to have an enjoyable summer free from any tragic accidents. Being mindful and practicing these safety warnings should help you do just that.

*~Marla Foor,
Communication Specialist*

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