



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SCHOLARSHIPS AT SREC



By Steve Lucas, CEO

This year marks a significant milestone for us at Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative as we celebrated 20

years of our commitment to investing in our youth through our yearly scholarship drawing for high school seniors and non-traditional students.

In 2004, we initiated our scholarship program by awarding nine scholarships, each valued at \$500. This year, during our Annual Meeting on April 13, we proudly presented 27 scholarships, each totaling \$1,000, to deserving students in our community.

Over the years, we have provided 615 individual scholarships totaling \$476,500. This investment not only reinforces our commitment to supporting the academic pursuits of our community's youth but also serves

Continued on following page



Front row, L to R – Hailey Duerst, Faith Vande Hey, Sophie Volenec, Allison Joos, Marah Vogelsberg, Eli Crist, Brynn Cardinali, Levi Vosberg, Derek Hottenstein, Braden Fishnick, Easton King.

Second row, L to R – Logan Hardyman, Josie Kramer, Hailey Gander, Alex Bender, Paige VanNatta-Rowe, Halle Foecking, Brian Belscamper, Wesley Winch, Matthew Nies, Andrew Udelhoven, Calan Meylor.

Third row, L to R – Zabe Plumb, Ben Kuhls, Meghan Trader, Ian Crapp, Jude Klar.

as a tangible embodiment of our cooperative principles. By investing in education, we are upholding principle #5 of Education, Training, and Information. By focusing our efforts on the improvement of our community, we are demonstrating principle #7 of our Concern for Community. Together, these actions shape a brighter future for all, reflecting the true spirit of cooperation.

Our scholarship program is uniquely funded through unclaimed capital credit refunds. Chapter 185 of the Wisconsin Statutes allows us to utilize unclaimed capital credit refunds for educational and charitable purposes. These unclaimed refunds, which would otherwise become dormant property, now find purpose in supporting our youth. As a result, this initiative allows our members to take pride in being part of a cooperative that prioritizes youth

development, without being burdened with any increase in their electrical bills.

The success of our scholarship program is a testament to the diligent efforts of our board and the scholarship coordinator. Each

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year, our board reviews the status of the unclaimed capital credits to determine the number of scholarships to be awarded. Then, the scholarship coordinator begins forming the program details, communicating with local schools and students, and ensuring its seamless execution at our annual meeting.

In contrast to many scholarships that require lengthy essays or a long list of criteria, our process is simple. To be eligible, applicants need to be graduating seniors who are dependents of an SREC member or a non-traditional student entering their freshman year of post-secondary education, fill out an application with their contact information, and attend our annual meeting. Upon confirming their attendance at our annual meeting, a random drawing is conducted to select the scholarship recipients. That's all there is to it!

The scholarship funds are disbursed after the successful completion of the student's first semester of post-secondary education, provided they have earned at least 12 college credits with a minimum "C" average. If a student does not meet these criteria, the scholarship is then awarded to an alternate who has fulfilled the same requirements. This ensures that the scholarship benefits those who are committed to their academic pursuits.

As we reflect on this process, we continue to believe that investing in the education of our community's youth helps ensure a brighter future for all. We are proud to continue our commitment to providing scholarships to students, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact they will have on our community for years to come.

Congratulations to all SREC scholarship winners.

2024

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

JULY 16-18



BY TEENS,
FOR TEENS

PARTICIPATE
in fun, hands-on, educational activities

DISCOVER
your leadership skills, and the purpose/value of cooperatives

EXPERIENCE
a typical college environment

Who can join on the fun?
Students of SREC members entering their sophomore, junior, or senior year in fall of 2024.

Interested?
Visit sre.coop/youth-leadership-conference

All costs are covered by SREC.



HOME UPGRADES?

We have rebates for that!

SREC offers members money back for the purchase and installation of qualified energy efficient items including appliances (washer, dryer, refrigerator, dishwashers, etc.), heat pumps, smart thermostats, lighting, water heaters, and more!

Visit sre.coop/energy-rebates to learn more and to find rebate forms. You may also call us for additional information - 800-236-2141.

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

EnergyGuide

The EnergyGuide is useful for directly comparing the energy use of similar models in the store.



ENERGY STAR

The ENERGY STAR makes it easy to identify the most energy-efficient products that offer savings on energy bills without sacrificing performance, features, and comfort.



5 WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER

When summer temperatures rise, so do our energy bills. Here are a few ways you can reduce energy use and grow your summer savings.

1. Raise your thermostat.

The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temp, the more you'll save.

2. Install window coverings

like blinds or light-blocking curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the day.

3. Seal leaks with caulk and weatherstripping

around windows and exterior doors. Air leaks force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.

4. Run ceiling fans

for additional cooling but turn them off when you leave the room.

5. Lower your water heater thermostat

to 120 degrees to reduce standby heat loss.



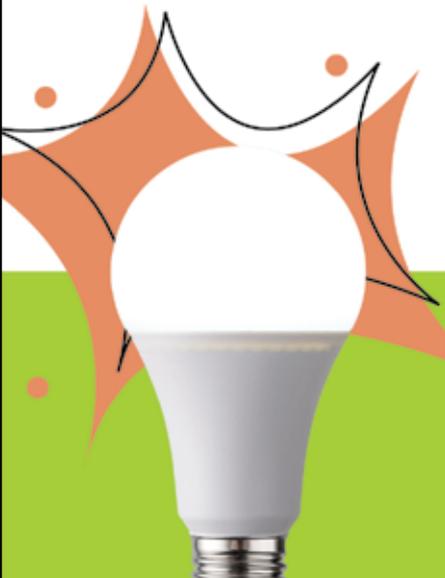
Source: Dept. of Energy

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Looking for an easy way to manage home energy use? Smart plugs are inexpensive and offer convenient solutions for scheduling and controlling your favorite electronic devices.

With smart plugs, you can easily manage your coffee maker, lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles, and more. Smart plugs can help you manage devices through a smart phone app, your home assistant or voice control. By conveniently powering off or scheduling devices, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: energystar.gov



SREC MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

Our theme this year is

Extraordinary in the Ordinary.

In celebration of the leap year, send us your photos that showcase the extraordinary beauty in the area we call home. Photos must be taken within the Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative service area. Winning photos will be featured each month in future newsletters or cooperative publications.



For a complete list of rules and criteria, as well as downloadable forms, visit our website, www.sre.coop.

MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH



This month's featured photo is "Complete Morning Rainbow" taken by Chris Swan of Fennimore.



Steve Lucas, CEO

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