



Steve Lucas, CEO

# THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

## Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11

You've likely noticed Scenic Rivers' crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our communities. It's no secret that a lineworker's job can be tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training, and hands-on learning. Did you know that becoming a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience, and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, SREC's lineworkers are committed to powering our local communities. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Here in Southwest Wisconsin, SREC has just a handful of skilled and dedicated lineworkers who are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year.

To do this, they maintain 3,512+ miles of power lines across rural areas of Grant, Crawford, and Lafayette Counties. We also have lines that extend into the adjoining counties of Green, Iowa, Vernon, and Richland in Wisconsin, and Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties in Illinois. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones, and other technologies to map outages, survey damage, and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our communities. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11, and follow #ThankALineworker on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.



### LINWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

We thank lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering our community.



# Youth Leadership Congress

UW-Stout | July 12–14, 2022

The annual **Youth Leadership Congress** is a dynamic three-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their **leadership skills** while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of **cooperative businesses**.



## Take the opportunity to...

- See what makes the **cooperative business model** different and **successful**, then apply this knowledge to fun and challenging cooperative activities.
- Identify and learn how to develop your own **leadership skills**.
- Discuss **cooperative careers** with industry professionals.
- Be **entertained and challenged** by highly acclaimed motivational speakers who understand teens and talk about topics that are relevant in your life.

This is a **by-teens, for-teens cooperative leadership conference** that is planned and developed by a youth board elected at the previous year's event.

## Who should apply?

- High school students with family members who belong to a participating electric cooperative.
- Students active in their school and community.

## What does it cost?

- All registration costs\* are covered by the generous support of your local cooperative.
- Students should contact their cooperative to apply for a full sponsorship.



## Sign up today!

**Deadline is June 1, 2022**

Contact Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative to request sponsorship and registration forms to attend the Youth Leadership Congress. Complete the forms and return them to Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 N. Sheridan St., Lancaster, WI 53813.

## Questions?

If you would like more information regarding the program or registration, please contact:

Judy Mims: 800-236-2141 ext. 554 or [jmims@srec.net](mailto:jmims@srec.net)

OR

Tina Walden, 608-467-4599 or [tina@weca.coop](mailto:tina@weca.coop)



## CHECK YOUR SUMP PUMP BEFORE THE SNOW MELTS

Living in Southwest Wisconsin means our members have probably experienced firsthand, or know someone who has dealt with, a mess when a sump pump fails.

Like electricity, it is easy to not think about a sump pump until it doesn't work. As the snow is melting and we enter the season of spring showers, take a few minutes to test and inspect your sump pump to make sure it's ready for the wet weather ahead.

"Sump pumps are important because they are the first line of defense to keep water out of your basement, protect your possessions, and protect the foundation and structural integrity of the house," said Tom Scherer, agriculture engineer at North Dakota State University Extension. "In the early spring when we have a lot of snow melt or in summer when we have heavy rains, your sump pump is going to be running. It may not have run for a while—last fall or up to a year ago—so we need to check it annually to make sure it's running properly."

First, remove the sump lid and check for debris and worn parts. Debris should be removed to prevent the pump from blocking the drain lines. If you notice rotten, moldy smells or rust on the pump, it may be time to replace the pump. Pumps last, on average, seven to ten years.

Next, make sure your sump pump is plugged in to a

GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlet for safety. It may seem silly and the sump pump may be located where no one should be messing with it. But, stranger things have happened. It never hurts to check just to be sure.

To test a sump pump, slowly pour a bucket of water into the sump. If the pump doesn't automatically kick on once the water hits a certain level, the pump may be broken. Check the breaker for the outlet. Otherwise, a licensed plumber can help repair or replace the pump.

Sump pumps should have a battery back-up that will kick-in if the power goes out. It is important to check the battery once or twice a year to make sure it's in good shape.

- Be sure the battery is rated to accommodate the pump and is fully charged
- Check the voltage of the battery with a voltmeter
- Turn the sump pump off and pour water into the sump. The battery should kick in once the water reaches a certain level. If not, a new battery may be needed

Check with a local plumber if you have other questions or concerns regarding your sump pump.

—Source: North Dakota State University Extension

# MEMBER PHOTOS OF THE MONTH – MARCH AND APRIL



The winning photo for March in SREC’s 2022 Member Photo Contest is “Frost by Calf” by Nicole Miller of Platteville (left). April’s winner is “Spring Football,” taken by Jodi Splinter of Hazel Green (right). Winning photos are featured in our 2022 Member Photo Calendar.

## 2022 MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

### “Bright and Shiny Faces”

With the new year now begun, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is kicking off our annual photo contest. We are searching for photos that show off the faces of our members, both young and old. Faces can also include those of our pets, farm animals, and the wildlife you might encounter. The winning members’ photos will be featured in our 2023 calendar. Winning photos may also be used in future newsletters, on our social media pages or in other cooperative publications.



**Photos must be submitted by August 15, 2022.**

*For a complete list of rules and criteria as well as downloadable forms, visit our website, [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop). Entry forms can also be picked up at our office, or we will email a copy to you.*

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

Source: Dept. of Energy



**SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**Steve Lucas, CEO**

231 N. Sheridan St.  
Lancaster, WI 53813  
lancaster@srec.net

300 Barth Drive  
P.O. Box 127  
Darlington, WI 53530  
darlington@srec.net

15985 St. Hwy. 131  
Gays Mills, WI 54631  
gaysmills@srec.net

**608-723-2121 • 800-236-2141 • [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop)**

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