

GUEST COMMENTARY

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES



This month's commentary was written by Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative member Allie Stader, who recently participated in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. She and the rest of the Wisconsin delegation joined approximately 1,700 rural electric youth from across the country for this weeklong opportunity to experience government firsthand by engaging in interactive workshops and visiting with legislative representatives. Youth Tour participants also toured the monuments and landmarks in the nation's capital. Students earn the privilege of participating in this national event; Stader earned her berth on the Youth Tour upon her election to the statewide youth board at last summer's Youth Leadership Congress at UW–River Falls. Stader's stint on the youth board ended with last month's Youth Leadership Congress, which she and her fellow board members helped plan and lead.

My 2016 Washington, D.C., Youth Tour is a week I will never forget. Along with being elected to the board, I was able to attend a fully paid trip to our nation's Capital because of my local electric cooperative, Scenic Rivers Energy Co-op. I am sincerely grateful to everyone who, in any way, made this possible. A special thanks to Ethan Giebel and for never letting us go without our "continental breakfasts," Allison Pendergast because we all loved her, and Perry Baird for starting the week off right with his inspirational song. The week was filled with expeditions, laughter, games, exceptional speakers, singing, tears, grateful smiles, and experiences. Our week was wonderful because of the people we shared it with and the people who made it possible for us all. Absolute cooperation is the best way to describe it!

We were able to visit: The 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, the Holocaust Memorial and Museum, U.S. Archives, the Kennedy Center, Washington National Cathedral, the Mount Vernon Estate, Jefferson Memorial, FDR Memorial, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam

Memorial, World War II Memorial, the Library of Congress, Ford's Theater, the Supreme Court, U.S. Capitol, Iwo Jima Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, and several Smithsonian museums. Each place conveyed a different emotion; therefore, I can't pick a favorite. However, I will never forget how sensitive the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial is. There were initials, wishes, and prayers delicately carved into the trees that were scattered in the memorial. I couldn't stand long enough to think about what happened.

The week made me look around and think. I became appreciative of the smallest things that I never would have before. My Wisconsin group of 12 became a family that week in D.C. It is amazing what can happen when you take an opportunity and run with it.

Thank you again to everyone who made this week possible. We will never forget.—Allie Stader

See more about Allie's experiences on the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour on page 16.

MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

The winning photo from SREC's first-ever Member Photo Contest for August was taken by James Ballje of Delavan. He captured this early fall scene with the fog just lifting over the Kickapoo River.

Each of the winning photos is included in our 2016 member calendar. There's still some time to enter our 2016 Member Photo Contest, but hurry! The deadline for all entries is August 21.

Details about the contest can be found on page 17 or on our website, www.sre.coop.





ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR HELPS DEVELOP TOMORROW'S LEADERS

This past June, SREC member Allie Stader took part in leadership activities, met with legislators, and explored the sites in Washington, D.C., as part of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

1. The Wisconsin delegation poses with Senator Tammy Baldwin in the atrium of the Hart Senate Office Building.

2. Wisconsin students ham it up during Co-ops 101, an interactive workshop. 3. Allie listens carefully during a visit to Representative Ron Kind's office. 4. Allie kicks up her heels at the Navy Memorial. 5. Allie takes in the discussion at Co-ops 101 workshop.



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Students elected to the Wisconsin state youth board at the Youth Leadership Congress each July are eligible to participate in the national Youth Tour. Youth Leadership Congress is open to member students entering grades 10, 11, and 12. Watch this magazine and the co-op's website, www.sre.coop, in the spring for details.

PHOTOGRAPHERS:

This month is your last chance to enter your photograph in Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative's 2016 Member Photo Contest



Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is holding its second annual Member Photo Contest. Winning photos will appear in SREC's 2017 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.

Photo Contest Criteria:

- Photos must be taken within the Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative service area.
- Photos should capture scenic life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, etc.).
- Photos must be horizontal (landscape).
- Photos can be in color or black and white.
- Photos must be at least 300 dpi and 8"x10".

Entry forms can be downloaded from www.sre.coop, picked up at a SREC office, or emailed to you.

Please email all photos to hpierce@SREC.net.

NOTE: To be of sufficient quality for publication in the calendar, photos MUST be at least 300 dpi.

Photo Contest Rules and Details:

- Contest will run through August 21, 2016; however, submitted photos can be taken outside of this date range.
- Three (3) photos per member will be accepted.
- All SREC members 18 years old and over are eligible to submit photos.
- An SREC member under the age of 18 years old is eligible to participate, but must submit a parent/guardian form with entry.
- A completed entry form must accompany each photo.
- Member must own rights to photo.
- SREC employees will choose winning photos.

Deadline for submitting entries is August 21, 2016!



KEEP DOING THE SUMMER SHIFT

As we begin August, we are entering the final month of the Summer Shift—working together to help control our incremental summer wholesale power charges. Your participation is so much appreciated!

We encourage you to continue shifting some electricity use to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m. on summer weekdays. These are the peak energy demand hours (the “electricity rush hours”) in our region. That means they are the hours that most tax the resources that generate and transmit electricity to our region, making it more expensive to provide for the higher energy demand. Please continue participating in the Summer Shift this month by trying a few of these suggestions:



- Turn off any unneeded lights and electronics (turn electronics off at the surge strip when possible).
- Delay watching TV and charging your computer battery until after 7 p.m.
- Run appliances like clothes washers and dryers and dishwashers before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m.
- Delay using hot water until after 7 p.m. so your water heater recharges after 7 p.m.
- Set the thermostat on your air conditioning equipment or heat pump up 3 or 4 degrees from 11 a.m. or 7 p.m.
- Shift the timer settings for running pool or spa heaters.
- Use ceiling fans and close drapes to help the air conditioner even more.

Every effort you make to shift electricity use outside of these “electricity rush hours” will reward you and your fellow members—you make a difference!

SAVE THE DATE

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative’s 2016 Member Appreciation Celebrations are set for:

- **October 18** – Lancaster office
- **October 19** – Gays Mills office
- **October 20** – Darlington office

The events will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. at each location, with food, fellowship, and information about your cooperative. Watch this magazine and our website, www.sre.coop, for more details.

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