

SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC Cooperative



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May your holidays be bright

By **ABBY BERRY** | *For Southeast Electric*

AS November kicks off, it's hard to believe we'll soon be gathering with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season. This festive time of year brings joy and warmth, but as the weather gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also bring increased energy use, and a higher risk of electrical and fire hazards.

As your local electric cooperative, our team at Southeast Electric cares about you. Below are a few practical tips to help you stay safe and efficient during the holiday season.

Safety first

My family truly enjoys decorating our home for the holidays. Before we deck the halls, I always check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren't frayed or damaged. This gives us peace of mind, knowing our holiday lights are ready to safely brighten our home. I also double check the lights we use outside to make sure they're rated for outdoor use.

Like many households, we also enjoy holiday-scented candles. While festive, candles can create fire hazards and should never be left unattended. One of the best and easiest ways to safeguard your home is to test smoke alarms often. I test mine on the first of each month, so it's easy to remember. Testing smoke alarms only takes a few seconds and could save lives, so make it a habit.

'Tis the season for savings


Spending more time indoors with a few more guests in the home can really impact home energy use. By taking a few small steps to save energy during the holiday season, you can lower your bills.

I like to remind my family members to mind the thermostat. Since heating and cooling makes up the majority of home energy consumption, the thermostat is one of the best places for savings. Lower it a few degrees, especially when you have family or friends stopping by. Good company brings

additional warmth to your home.

Your family can also save energy by decorating with LED holiday lights. LEDs are the most energy-efficient lighting options available, and they last much longer than traditional bulbs.

There's no denying one of the best parts of the holiday season is the food — not just the meals, but the time we spend together in the kitchen. There are many ways to save in the heart of your home, but one of the best approaches is to cook with smaller countertop appliances, such as air fryers, slow cookers and toaster ovens. These handy appliances consume a fraction of the energy used to heat the oven, creating the perfect recipe for mealtime and energy savings.

From your friends at Southeast Electric Cooperative, we hope your holiday season is merry and bright. 



WIN A FREE TRIP


Youth Tour sending students to D.C.

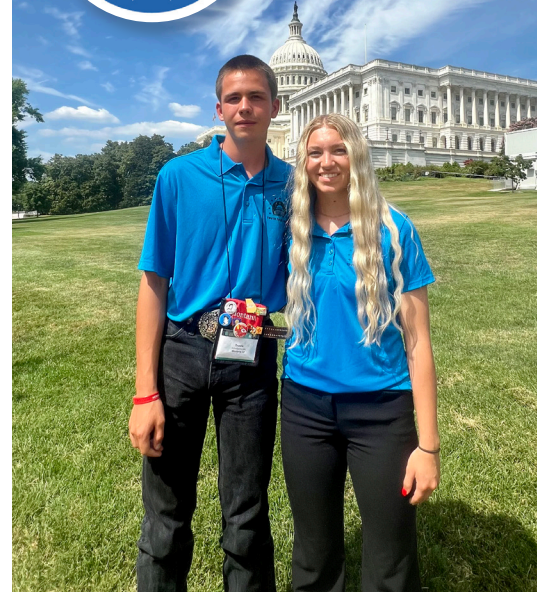
Attention high school sophomores and juniors! Do you want a FREE trip to Washington, D.C.? In June 2025 high schoolers from Montana will board airplanes and head for Washington, D.C. Join them and learn about the political process, meet elected officials and gain an up-close understanding of U.S. history and the cooperative model. And, most importantly, meet new friends!

Staff from the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association arrange the delegation's visit to their U.S. representatives' and senators' offices, and educational and sight-seeing activities. This includes the Capitol, monuments, memorials, the

Smithsonian museums, and much more. More than 1,500 students and 250 chaperones from across rural America participate in the Youth Tour every year.

Southeast Electric Cooperative, along with the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association, pay fees, travel and lodging costs. If you want to be part of this FREE fun week in Washington, D.C., and your parents are members of Southeast Electric Cooperative, contact us today. You can also go to our website <https://www.seecoop.com/youth-tour>.

This really is a trip of a lifetime. Encourage your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to write the essay and apply today! 



Travis Schallenberger from Ekalaka and Hayden Lane from Ismay were Southeast Electric Cooperative's representatives during the 2024 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. | **COURTESY PHOTO**




★ VETERAN'S DAY ★

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

— ★ ★ ★ —

Southeast Electric's office will be closed Monday Nov. 11



SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC BILLING CHANGES BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER

- Bills will be mailed after the 1st of each month.
- Payments will be due on the 5th of each month rather than the 1st.
- Members will have until the 20th of each month before the forfeited discount is applied.
- SMART HUB auto payments will be processed on the 15th rather than the 10th.