

NEWS

Congratulations 2020 Youth Tour Winners!



Olivia Carter



Alex Dart



Tessa Hauser



Kalli Moore



Lauren Schmitt



Hunter Woodyard

Prairie Land Electric Cooperative has selected six area students for a trip of a lifetime.

On Feb. 16, 2020, students arrived at our headquarters in Norton to test and interview for an all-expense-paid trip to either Washington, D.C., or Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Applicants met with last year's Youth Tour winners to learn about their experiences and ask questions about the trips. This year's winners were selected based on the applicant's written tests and personal interviews.

ALEX DART, TESSA HAUSER and **LAUREN SCHMITT** were chosen to attend the 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip in Washington, D.C., from June 18-25. They will join approximately 1,800 high school juniors from across the nation to learn more about their government and tour world-famous landmarks in and around Washington, D.C., including stops at the Arlington National Cemetery, Capitol Hill, the Smithsonian museums, the Lincoln Memorial and many more. The youth will also have the opportunity to meet with their local legislators.

OLIVIA CARTER, KALLI MOORE and **HUNTER WOODYARD** were chosen to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership

Camp in Colorado, July 10-16, where they will join other students from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming. On their trip, they will learn more about cooperatives, rural electrification, leadership, energy and safety.

Campers will tour Craig Power Plant, one of the largest electrical generating plants in the United States, and Trapper Mine, where coal is mined to fuel three Colorado generation plants. Throughout the week, campers will also enjoy a special banquet, campfires, games, swimming, dancing, rafting on the Colorado River and shopping in Steamboat Springs.

Prairie Land Electric has sponsored students for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip since 1968, and the board of trustees added the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in 1977. Over the years, many outstanding high school juniors have participated in these all-expense-paid trips and consider them life-changing opportunities to learn more about the cooperative difference and our government, build new friendships and increase their leadership skills.

The board of trustees of Prairie Land Electric congratulate Alex, Hunter Kalli, Lauren, Olivia and Tessa. Thank you to all the students who participated in the contest.

Happy St. Patrick's Day



Join us for Your Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

**Dinner at noon
Meeting at 12:45 p.m.**

**Prairie Land Electric Headquarters
14935 U.S. Highway 36 in Norton**

Willour is Certified Loss Control Professional



Garrett Willour

Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s Safety Coordinator, **GARRETT WILLOUR**, has completed an intensive program in

electric utility safety and loss control. The Loss Control Internship is a series of workshops offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in conjunction with the National Utility Training & Safety Education Association. The program is designed to instruct participants in many areas related to electric utility industry safety.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, nearly 4 million injuries occur annually in the workplace. One of the goals of a certified loss control professional is to

help ensure a safe work environment for utility workers and the public in general. Avoiding workplace accidents avoids downtime and can ultimately lead to lower utility rates.

Garrett is one of only a few electric utility professionals in the country who will receive this certification this year. The program requires participants to complete a rigorous series of seminars and tests, a 30-hour OSHA course and a detailed final course project.

Loss control participants go through four, weeklong sessions designed to challenge and educate participants in new, innovative safety techniques. Participants must also maintain their certifications by attending courses every year to stay on top of changes in the industry.

Garrett has been with Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. for 14 years. He has four children: Matt, 16; Logan, 13; Levi, 9, and Adlie, 7.

KILOWATT TIPS

Unruly Trees Interfere with Power



Kilowatt

Trees can contribute beauty to your home and provide shade to boost your energy efficiency.

When you see us in your neighborhood trimming trees, know we are doing so to keep you safe and your power reliable.

Although most trees do not present a problem, some of them grow into or crowd power lines or other utility equipment. When greenery becomes too close for comfort, Prairie Land has to address it because overgrowth can interfere with power distribution and create a fire hazard.

- ▶ Power lines can spark or arc potentially landing on a nearby branch and igniting it. Additionally, the lights in your house may flicker when tree branches brush power lines during high winds.
- ▶ The majority of power outages are caused by tree-related issues. It's Prairie Land's job to ensure trees, branches and limbs are a safe distance from power lines.
- ▶ Clear power lines make it easier and safer for our linemen to access lines and fix problems that occur.
- ▶ Pruning is the first line of defense against unruly trees. When clearing around lines, we make sure proper pruning techniques are used to preserve tree health as much as possible.
- ▶ When hiring someone to trim trees on your property, know that most tree-care workers are not qualified to work around energized power lines. By law, only OSHA-certified utility line clearance workers are allowed to work on trees or branches within 10 feet of a power line.
- ▶ Contact Prairie Land 800-577-3323 if you have questions about trees around power lines.

KILOWATT was adopted by Prairie Land after the December 2006 ice storm. She now brings you energy and safety tips each month.

