


Western Cooperative Electric NEWS



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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September 2008

Local Students Attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

“The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp was a trip I will never forget,” Heather Weber said. “I have learned so much and met so many amazing people.”

Heather, Ellis, along with Cas Schultz, Grainfield, were two of six winners of the 2008 Western Cooperative Electric Youth Contest.

Heather and Cas chose to attend the Youth Leadership Camp held July 12-28, 2008, at the Glen Eden Resort near Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Heather and Cas joined 29 other Kansas participants and more than 70 high school students from Colorado, Oklahoma, and Wyoming at the Cooperative Leadership Youth Camp.

During their week-long stay in Colorado, the youth created their own candy cooperative, attended sessions featuring energy and legislative simulations, and visited Craig Station, one of the largest



Cas Schultz (left) and Heather Weber enjoy the view on top of Mt. Werner in Steamboat Springs, CO.

electric generating plants in the Midwest.

“Camp was a great experience,” Cas said. “You learn a lot about yourself along with numerous leadership skills! I would definitely recommend this camp to anyone, because of the fun you have while learning. I am so glad that Western Cooperative Electric made this experience possible.”

The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp winners were selected from a group of local high school applicants. The participants were asked to complete an application, write a short essay, take a quiz about cooperatives, and interview with a panel of judges. The winners

were determined by earning the highest cumulative score.

“We are pleased that Heather and Cas represented Western,” said General Manager, David Schneider. “All of the applicants were outstanding, and we are proud to have sponsored these two students at the leadership camp.”

Both Heather and Cas told us that they “would like to thank Western Cooperative Electric for making this experience possible.”

Automatic Bank Draft Drawing Winner

August 1 was the deadline to enter and win a \$50 credit on your electric bill, if you signed up for automatic bank draft. The Western Cooperative Electric \$50 credit winner is Loren Hemphill from Plaville. Thanks to all who signed up!

Electric Cooperatives at Kansas State Fair

For the second year, the Kansas electric cooperatives and Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas are co-sponsoring a high-voltage line safety demonstration in combination with the fair's "Kansas' Largest Classroom".

The demonstration, half-hour in length, will incorporate a full-size electric safety demonstration. Journeymen linemen from the electrical cooperatives across Kansas will demonstrate proper safety precautions and teach viewers what protective gear linemen use and why, what happens to a person when they come into contact with an energized line, and why birds can land safely on power lines.

The public demonstration will operate from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on September 10-14 and is free of charge for all fair attendees. The demonstration will be located in the Beef Judging building, east of the Oz Gallery. This is the same building as the sand sculpture.

As an added bonus, the Touch-



Cooperative employees present the High Line Safety Demonstration at the 2007 State Fair.

stone Energy and Discovery Channel School "Get Charged" kits will be distributed to teachers who pre-register their 5th-9th grade classes for the demonstration. Kansas' Largest Classroom is a one-of-a-kind educational event that features items from animals to agriculture to crafts and cowboys. The program provides teachers with such materials as lesson plans and lists of activities for a fun and exciting trip to the Kansas State Fair.

The Kansas State Fair is the largest event in the state and attracts over 350,000 people annually. The fair has approximately 1,000 commercial exhibits and over 30,000 exhibits for competition for attendees to experience.



James Wright (left) of Midwest Energy, Hays, answers energy questions from a young fair-goer.

Cold Weather Rule

Western Cooperative Electric members who are unable to pay their electric service bills during the period from November 1 to March 31 can avoid being disconnected by fulfilling certain good faith requirements. Those requirements are summarized below:

(1) Member must notify the cooperative and state their inability to pay their bill in full.

(2) Members must apply to federal, state, local or other financial assistance programs for which they may be eligible to receive aid in paying utility bills.

(3) Members and the cooperative will reach a mutually agreeable payment arrangement.

It will be the responsibility of the cooperative during the cold weather period to send one written notice to the member and attempt to phone at least two days prior to the collection disconnection trip. If no response is made to the notice, or if we are unable to make telephone contact, the trip for collection and/or disconnect will be made.

The cold weather rule is to ensure that human health and safety are not unreasonably endangered during the cold weather months. For more information concerning assistance with your bill, please contact Western Cooperative Electric at 743-5561 or 800-456-6720.