



WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

NEWS

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Sharing Success Awards \$2,000 Grant

Western Cooperative Electric, in partnership with CoBank, awarded a \$2,000 grant to **AMERICAN LEGION POST 301** located at 235 Main Street in Grainfield through the Sharing Success program.

This grant will go toward replacing the 43-year-old Legion building's front doors that no longer seal properly.

"The doors have been adjusted several times over the years, but there are no adjustments left to be made," Don Hartman, post commander, said. "Depending on the time of the year, we find dust, snow or grain chaff getting through the doors and ending up in our entrance."

By replacing the doors, the building will be able to continue to serve as a community building for weddings, graduation receptions, birthday parties, monthly Legion stags and many more events.

Unfortunately, with COVID-19 limiting public assemblies, the Legion has not been able to raise money by renting out their building for social gatherings.

"We are unable to host monthly stags or rent the building out, and cancellations for events have been made months ahead of schedule. By replacing the doors, our monthly utility bills will be lowered and that will help with the lack of revenue," said Hartman.

Volunteer members will donate the labor costs by removing the old doors and installing the new ones.

"Partnering with CoBank to establish the Sharing Success program has been a great benefit for our members and the communities we serve," said Western's Member Services Manager Nolan Numrich. "This year, in particular, with the current economic situation and the lack of fundraising opportunities, it has been important to give back to our communities."

Since 2013, the Sharing Success fund has donated \$66,000 to local non-profit organizations. The next application period will run from April 1 to June 1, 2021. For questions regarding any of Western's member programs, please email western@westerncoop.com.



Grainfield American Legion Post 301 Commander Don Hartman holds a \$2,000 grant check from Western Cooperative's Sharing Success program.



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR



WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 14-21, 2021



YOUTH P
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Western Cooperative Electric will select four students to take an all-expenses-paid trip in the summer of 2021. If you are a **HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR**, submit your application for the chance to win one of these trips. During both trips, students forge lifelong friendships and many become college roommates and professional colleagues.

TOUR THE NATION'S CAPITAL



During the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., students meet with Kansas elected officials. This year's tour will be June 14-21, 2021.

Imagine — a chance to visit our nation's capital for one week, meet with 35 other student leaders from across the state and visit with Kansas' senators and congressional representatives. The **ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR** in Washington, D.C., is jam-packed with visiting many of the major memorials, including the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial and the brand-new Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial. To see what's in store, visit [HTTP://BIT.LY/DCYTVIDEO2015](http://bit.ly/dcytvideo2015).

ADVENTURE IN THE ROCKIES



Each year, campers go rafting during Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, which is scheduled for July 16-22, 2021.

How big is a bald eagle? How thrilling is white-water rafting? Can I help run a successful cooperative? Find the answer to those questions and more at the **COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP**. Enjoy nature like never before in the beautiful Colorado Rockies. Meet nearly 100 students your age from cooperative communities in Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming while creating memories to last a lifetime. Learn more at [HTTP://BIT.LY/CYLCVIDEO](http://bit.ly/cylcvideo).

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP



ROGRAMS
ILD
MUNITY, MEMORIES

Youth Tour Application

For an eligible high school junior to enter the competition, the cooperative office must receive this completed form by **DEC. 18, 2020**. Mail or bring to: Western Cooperative Electric Association, Inc., 635 S. 13th St., P.O. Box 278, WaKeeney, KS 67672. You can also email to western@westerncoop.com or FAX to 785-743-3101.

Applicant Name _____ Birth Date _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Student Phone # _____ Student Email _____

Grade _____ School _____

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) _____ Electric Account # _____

Parents' Phone # _____ Parents' Email _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.

Applicant Signature _____

The safety of our students and chaperones is our top priority. If the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour or Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp organizers feel that travel is unsafe due to concerns with the coronavirus (or any other acts of terrorism, disaster, civil disorder, or curtailment of transportation facilities), then the trip will be canceled.

High School Juniors are YOU Eligible for the Trip of a Lifetime?

- ▶ All high school juniors whose parents or guardians are members of Western Cooperative Electric are eligible. (Parents or guardians may receive electricity for any type of service — farm, house, cabin, water well).
- ▶ Contestants must fill out entry form (left) and return by Dec. 18, 2020.
- ▶ Contestants will be mailed an entry packet. Finalists will be chosen based on application, resume, open book quiz and short essay.
- ▶ Finalists will be interviewed to determine winners on Feb. 7, 2021.
- ▶ More information and entry form available at www.westerncoop.com.

Taking Safety to New Heights

At Western Cooperative Electric, safety is one of our top priorities. When our crews are replacing electric poles or maintaining the system, it's not uncommon for them to be miles away from the nearest first responders. If an emergency were to arise, it is vital crew members have the training to safely lower the injured person down to the ground, begin first-aid care and wait for emergency crews to arrive.

As part of their annual safety training, linemen complete pole top and bucket rescue drills. CPR and first-aid training take place every other year. To maintain safety certification, every lineman in the company must don climbing and safety gear, climb the pole to the safety mannequin, secure a rope around the "injured man" and lower him to the ground.

When starting a rescue operation from an electrical pole, there are additional factors linemen must consider. After the lineman makes the calls to 911 or mayday to dispatch, they must ensure neither the victim nor the pole is energized.

After lowering the injured person to the ground, crew members can perform CPR and first aid until first responders arrive on location.

"When in an emergency, the most important thing is to remain calm and go through the proper steps," said Jay Scott, Western's safety manager. "Following safety procedures ensures no one else gets harmed during a rescue operation."

Being prepared for worst-case scenarios is something all Western employees take seriously. Linemen must work at heights with high voltage making their jobs inherently dangerous. Relying on the quick thinking of your co-workers could mean the difference between life and death. Although pole top and bucket rescue are only a small part of the



Line foreman Gene Hedding (far right) lowers the "injured man" to the ground as part of Western's annual pole-top rescue certification.



Safety Manager Jay Scott evaluates each lineman's rescue performance.

safety program, they are both vital to linemen. Through annual safety training, crew linemen give themselves the best opportunity to act as first responders and possibly save their co-workers' lives.

"We strive to work as safely as possible every day, but if an accident does happen, we know our linemen will be able to react and help the hurt person," Scott said.



Chase Werner

Western Welcomes Werner to the Cooperative

Western is pleased to announce the hiring of **CHASE WERNER** as a first-year apprentice to the Plainville outpost. Werner grew up near Plainville and attended Plainville High School. After graduating from Pratt Community College's Electrical Technology Program, Werner served as an intern for Western in 2017. When he's not working, Werner enjoys hunting, fishing, trapping, and spending time outdoors. Western is excited to add Werner to our cooperative family.