ENERSTAR ELECTRIC CO-OP

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NOVEMBER 2026

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF ENERSTAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



PREPARING FOR THE BIG HUNT

As hunting season approaches, excitement builds for time outdoors. But before you head into the woods, make sure electrical safety is part of your preparation checklist.

Before you climb that tree stand, look out for power lines.

Never install a tree stand near a power line or on a utility pole. Electricity can arc through the air up to 10 feet from high-voltage lines. This means you don't even have to touch a wire to be at risk of electrocution.

Never shoot near or toward power lines, utility poles, transformers or substations. Stray bullets or pellets could damage equipment, possibly interrupting electric service. Even more concerning, they could drop a power line to the ground, causing a hazardous scenario: Those who get within 50 feet of a downed line could be shocked or electrocuted.

Keep these tips in mind to stay safe

- **Scout the area.** Before hunting, scout your area during daylight. Look for power lines, poles and electrical equipment. Note their locations to avoid them later.
- **Power safely.** If you're using a portable electrical generator, don't use it inside a cabin or RV, or in a confined area. Make sure it's used outside with plenty of ventilation.
- **Avoid aiming toward power lines or equipment.** A stray bullet could knock down a line, interrupt power or create a deadly hazard.
- **Keep your distance.** Stay at least 10 feet away from overhead lines, poles and other electrical infrastructure when setting up or taking down tree stands.
- **Never climb a utility pole.** Even if it looks like the perfect vantage point, don't do it. Poles carry high-voltage lines, and climbing them can be deadly.
- **Don't use utility poles for support.** Tree stands or blinds should never be attached to or supported by power poles or electrical equipment.
- **Watch for downed lines:** Stay at least 50 feet away from downed power lines or damaged electrical equipment. Call 911 or your utility immediately.

11597 Illinois Highway 1, Paris, IL 61944

800-635-4145

Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Youth to Washington

APPLY TODAY TO REPRESENT ENERSTAR IN D.C.

For more than 60 years, the electric cooperatives of Illinois have given tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to learn from today's public officials, and EnerStar is on the hunt for two outstanding students to represent our co-op at Youth Tour this year. EnerStar's Youth Tour is actually two separate events: Youth Day in Springfield and the Youth to Washington trip.



YOUTH TO WASHINGTON

YOUTH TO WASHINGTON – JUNE 16-23, 2027

Those individuals selected will also travel by charter bus for an all-expense-paid weeklong tour of Washington, D.C., where they will create lasting memories and visit all the Washington must-see sites, including Gettysburg, George Washington's Mt. Vernon, the Smithsonian museums, Arlington Cemetery and much more!

YOUTH DAY IN SPRINGFIELD – TBD, 2027

Each year, nearly 300 outstanding students get an up-close, firsthand look at democracy in action when they meet their elected representatives during Illinois Electric Cooperatives Youth Day.



YOUTH DAY IN SPRINGFIELD

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should be high school freshmen, sophomores or juniors during the 2026-2027 school year. In addition, the students must reside in the EnerStar service territory and receive their electricity from EnerStar.

Visit www.enerstar.com to find the application in the Community Section.



At EnerStar, we believe empowering the next generation is the key to a brighter future. That's why electric cooperatives across Illinois are investing in our youth through scholarships that honor the legacy of our cooperative family and fuel the dreams of tomorrow's leaders.

This year, electric cooperatives of Illinois will award 20 scholarships, each worth $3,000, to outstanding students as part of the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

"This isn't just about financial aid – it's also about empowering students," said EnerStar's Angela Griffin. "While honoring those who came before us, we are investing in the future. Illinois' electric cooperatives are always looking for ways to spark positive change in our communities, and supporting youth through scholarships is one of the most impactful ways we can help shape tomorrow."

Opportunities for every path

Whether a student is headed to a university, a community college, or a career in linework, there's a scholarship built for the journey:

- **Twelve scholarships** will be awarded to high school seniors whose parent(s) are members of an Illinois electric cooperative.
- **The Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship** will be awarded to a student whose parent is an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director, honoring a legacy of service within the cooperative family.
- **Six scholarships** will be awarded to students enrolling full-time at an Illinois community college whose parent(s) are electric cooperative members.
- **The LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship** supports students pursuing a career in linework through enrollment in the lineworker program at Lincoln Land Community College. Eligible applicants include children of cooperative members, relatives of employees or directors, and individuals who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces or National Guard.

The general scholarship application deadline is Dec. 31, 2026, and the lineworker scholarship is due by April 30, 2027. For more information or to apply please visit the community section at www.enerstar.com. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the next wave of bright minds in our co-op communities," said Angela Griffin. "These scholarships ensure that our future is powered by knowledge, service and a shared commitment to excellence. Together, we can light the way to a brighter tomorrow."



Welcome!

Please join us in welcoming Josh Larouere to the EnerStar forestry team as our newest forestry journeyman!

Josh comes to EnerStar with an incredible 32 years of experience trimming trees, including 23 years with Nelson Tree Service. Originally from Charleston, Ill., he brings a wealth of hands-on knowledge that will help keep our lines clear and our system reliable for members across our service territory.

As our forestry team continues to grow, we're proud to bring on experienced professionals like Josh who share our commitment to safety and reliability.



Welcome to the team, Josh!

Give a HUG
Home Utility Gift



Need a thoughtful holiday gift idea or looking for an anonymous random act of kindness option?

- Call us at 800-635-4145 to buy an energy gift certificate!
- Purchase a HUG Card, and the amount will be deducted from the recipient's next bill.
- We'll send you a gift certificate to give to your recipient or we can send it anonymously.
- No action is required from the recipient.