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Coweta-Fayette **EMC**

POWER LINES

A NEWSLETTER FROM
COWETA-FAYETTE EMC



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Coweta-Fayette EMC awards \$29,926.33 in Bright Ideas Grants to local teachers

Coweta-Fayette EMC awarded \$29,926.33 in Bright Ideas Grants to 24 deserving teachers across schools in Coweta, Fayette, and Heard Counties.

Local teachers submitted Bright Ideas Grant applications to assist with innovative classroom projects, and 24 were selected as grant recipients. Grants were approved by the Coweta-Fayette Trust Board and funded by Operation Round Up.



Blaire Thrasher, Engineering and Technology Teacher at East Coweta Middle School (pictured above), received a grant for her project, "Ready, Set, Spike!"

"Our students are learning about computer science and programming, and they're moving forward with programming robots right now," said Thrasher. "We are so lucky to receive this grant for the robotics kits, and we're excited to start this in our classes. Thank you so much for the Bright Ideas Grant!" said Thrasher.

The project is designed to allow students to use their knowledge of coding learned in computer science, engineering, and technology class to apply it in hands-on problem-solving activities. Students will design, build, and program a robot to complete obstacle courses designed to mimic real-world obstacles. The grant will assist in the funding of the robotics kits.



Tanya Fairbanks, 3rd Grade Teacher at Fayetteville Elementary School (pictured above), received a grant for her project, "Planting Leaders".

"Receiving a Bright Ideas Grant award has made my whole year," said Fairbanks. "This will help us ensure that our students become leaders not only in the school but also within the community. Through growing plants together, not only are the students taking leadership roles, but they're also learning where food comes from, what is healthy for their bodies and ultimately how to become their best self!" said Fairbanks.

The project will allow students to discover and practice leadership skills through the growth of hydroponic plants. This will help students not only learn the process of plant growth but also facilitate the school's leadership curriculum through students having responsibilities to themselves, each other, and the environment. The older students will work with younger students to teach them perseverance, dedication, and responsibility. The grant will assist with the funding of a hydroponics system and a garden kit with vegetable seeds.

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Congratulations to the following 2022 Bright Ideas Grant (BIG) award winners!

Coweta County Schools: Blake Bass Middle School - Kelsey Armstrong and Lisa Holland; East Coweta Middle School - Julie Eidson, Tonya Isabell, and Blaire Thrasher; Lee Middle School - Adriana Cantwell; Madras Middle School - Kathryn Lake; Moreland Elementary School - Pamela Smith; Poplar Road Elementary School - Faith Wheeler; Ruth Hill Elementary School - Mary Thompson; Thomas Crossroads Elementary School - Christy Jennings; Western Elementary School - Ciara Johnson; and White Oak Elementary School - Paula Corley

Fayette County Schools: Fayetteville Elementary School - Tanya Fairbanks and Joanna Johnson; Kedron Elementary School - Kori Perez and Angie Thompson; McIntosh High School - Seth Bishop; Sandy Creek High School - Christina Bryant and Jill Lloyd; Starr's Mill High School - Melissa Beaulieu; The Foundry Academy School - Dan McCully; Whitewater Middle School - Susan Boyd

Heard County Schools: Centralhatchee Elementary School - Tracey Hunt

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\$6 is the average cost per year for our members that round up their bill.



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Coweta-Fayette EMC Accepting Applications for 2023 Washington Youth Tour

Coweta-Fayette EMC is now accepting applications for Georgia EMC's 2023 Washington Youth Tour program, which will take place **June 15-22, 2023**, in Washington, D.C.

Eligible entrants must be a **high school junior** who lives and attends school in one of the counties served by Coweta-Fayette EMC. These counties include Clayton, Coweta, Fayette, Heard, Meriwether, Spalding, South Fulton, and Troup. The full requirements and application are available at www.utility.org/washington-youth-tour.

Please submit applications by Friday, February 17, 2023.

Pictured (left to right): 2022 WYT Delegates **Niyah Cameron**, Whitewater High School; and **Jackson Terrell**, Newnan High School.



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Chris Stephens, CEO

It's hard to believe a new year is starting. As we ring in 2023, I hope this message finds you and your family healthy and well.

Just like you, this is the time of year we take stock of this past year and begin to implement new initiatives for the coming year.

At Coweta-Fayette EMC, 2022 offered its share of triumphs and struggles. We saw:

- Two local high school students, Niyah Cameron (Whitewater High School) and Jackson Terrell (Newnan High School) joined with students from around the country and took part in the week-long National Rural Electric Association of Cooperative's Washington Youth Tour to learn about leadership, meet legislators, and tour the Capitol. By the way, we're accepting applications for the 2023 tour now.

- We recognized Our Lady of Mercy and Northgate High School through the Georgia High School Association Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award.

- We launched Energy U, a free online-learning platform for members just like you to be able to learn more about where your power comes from and the cooperative business model. Check it out here - <https://cfemc.thinkific.com/courses/CFEMCEnergyU>

- Through your contributions to Operation Round Up, 25 students received scholarships to continue their educational endeavors and you can read about the classrooms you impacted through the Bright Idea Teacher Grants in this issue of Powerlines.

- We set a new system peak in June. The CFEMC system is built to provide you with the electricity you need when you want it. Along with our generation partners, we're confident in our ability to deliver reliable electric service to you.

- CFEMC's energy portfolio now includes 10 percent of capacity from solar. We will be adding more carbon-free generation when Vogtle Plant 3 comes online in 2023.

- We experienced the effect of supply change issues and inflation just like you. The cost of fuel for generating electricity and materials jumped exponentially. However, CFEMC managed the process through our fuel hedging policies and our staff carefully evaluating every dollar spent to make sure the most economical decisions are made on behalf of our members.

- Our crews not only weathered local storms and restored power quickly and safely, but they also assisted several other co-ops throughout the year when extreme weather struck, including Habersham EMC in North Georgia, Rappahannock EMC in Virginia, and Blue Grass Energy in Kentucky.

One thing I am most proud of is how the employees of CFEMC came together to find ways to best serve our members and react to the changes facing our industry. I can't say enough about the dedication and commitment they bring when it comes to serving you. I am grateful to work alongside them and for all they do for our members and community.

Lastly, to our members. Whether you've been a member for years, or you're just learning about the cooperative difference, all of us here wish you joy, health, and prosperity in the coming year.