March 2021





Coweta-Fayette EMC is now accepting applications for Georgia's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour (YTGA) – a virtual leadership experience available for high school juniors! This year is going to be different, but we're sure we can make it fun and valuable for students.

Coweta-Fayette EMC is looking to offer a unique experience for high school juniors who are leaders in their high schools, communities, places of worship, or academic and community organizations.

We're searching for students who enjoy spending time planning projects, volunteering, and meeting others from across the state to apply.

For more than 50 years, electric cooperatives across Georgia have recognized outstanding high school students by providing a valuable leadership experience for exceptional teens through the Washington Youth Tour, which normally involves a trip to the nation's capital.

In 2021, due to uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, we will offer a virtual Youth Tour in June, which is already shaping up to be an awesome experience.

We will select two delegates from the applicants to represent us on a three-day dynamic interactive experience that will focus each morning on different aspects of leadership - Leadership and Me, Leadership and My Community, Leadership and My Nation – and will include personality profiles, small group breakouts, photo contests, trivia challenges and more.

Do you know someone who is ready for new experiences in a quick-touch short-format three-morning program? Geared up to meet teens from across the state and network with young alumni of the program in leadership positions at college or in careers? Then encourage this student to apply for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour!

Apply by Tuesday, March 30, 2021, for a chance to win a pair of Apple AirPods or AirPods Pro! Additional information and applications are available online at **www.utility.org/washington-youth-tour.** Cooperative Youth Tour Vetworking Doining the Virtual Leadership Experience will allow you to connect with like-minded high-achieving teens. Students will get to know their peers through mentor groups, regional and college-specific breakouts and off-line chats.

Reasons to apply for the Georgia Electric

Developing leadership skills is a key element of the program! This year, the focus will be on three different aspects of leadership: Leadership and Me, Leadership and My Community, and Leadership and My Nation.

Scholarships



Delegates can collaborate in a small group challenge for a chance to win one of several \$5,000 college scholarships! And everyone who participates is also eligible to apply for an annual \$10,000 national college scholarship.

Learning about one's self and others is an important component of the program! Participants will learn how to become a better interviewer and storyteller and gain a firm grasp on personality types and techniques.

Experience



Experience a virtual town hall with Georgia's members of Congress to hear from legislators and ask questions live. Make your voice heard and chat with Youth Tour alumni about how to work on Capital Hill.

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770-502-0226 WWW.UTILITY.ORG



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Coweta-Fayette EMC has launched a new podcast called, "In The Loop"! It will feature a new segment every month with relevant information about your EMC. Our latest episode features tips for easy energy saving around your home. We invite you to listen, subscribe &

share! Simply scan the code below and get started learning about your EMC today!







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The President's Message Chris Stephens CEO

Winter weather has had a huge impact on large parts of our nation. After what happened in Texas, Kentucky and other parts of our country, I couldn't help but think back to a winter storm named Pax that hit our service area in February 2014.

That storm left over 21,000 EMC members without power across our service territory. We called in additional crews, and they, along with our dedicated lineworkers repaired 75 broken poles and fixed the damage along 6,000 miles of line.

Ice can be devastating to an electric utility. Tree limbs can't hold the weight causing them to break, fall into powerlines, block roads and more. The weight of the ice can even cause power lines and poles to snap. Just a quarter of an inch of ice can add 500 pounds of weight per span of wire. The slick conditions make the restoration efforts more dangerous than normal.

Just as we called in help from neighboring co-ops to deal with Pax, we were able to send crews to London, KY to assist Jackson Energy with restoration efforts in February. At the time our crews left, they had over 26,000 members without power.

A special thank you to **Doug Worley, Charles Proctor, Dell McWaters, Steven Robinson, Ben Daniels, Austin Clark, Rylan Millians, Terry Jones, Lee Sewell, Corey Hendrix** and **Brad McGinnis** for volunteering to go work in the icy cold conditions.

This storm caused everyone to take a closer look at how we maintain the stability of the grid in the face of electricity shortfalls. The record-low temperatures resulted in many systems setting new winter peak demands.

This situation was compounded by disruptions to natural gas, coal and renewable generation as well as regional grid operations that were overwhelmed by the extraordinary electric demand in some locations. The events from this storm underscore the need for diversity of energy supply as well as investment in the transmission grid.

There have been significant changes in electricity markets since the 2014 polar vortex. The nationwide coal share has decreased from 38.5% to 23.3% while natural gas has increased from 27.4% to 38.3% and non-hydro renewables have increased from 6.8% to 10.6%. Nuclear energy has remained flat.

The most significant market disruption appears to have been in the natural gas sector, due to increased natural gas use for electric generation, home heating, and commercial and industrial processes. This created compounding effects for natural gas processing, pipelines and plant fuel issues.

During the storm, the huge energy demand in Texas and the mid-West created impacts that stressed transmission and changed how some utilities operated and dispatched generation.

Together, these factors and record-low temperatures in many areas resulted in significant volatility in the natural gas and electricity markets, pushing prices to unforeseen price levels. This storm should show you can't be dependent on just one source to produce electricity. At CFEMC, we strive to maintain a mix of fuels in our generation supply so we can produce the electricity you need, when you need it.