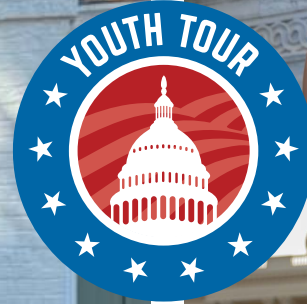


# SWRE POWER SOURCE

*A Supplement to Oklahoma Living*



## TRIP TO D.C. INSPIRES LOCAL STUDENTS

*Cooperative-sponsored week in Washington proves to be trip of a lifetime for teens.*

Megan Mitchell from Frederick High School and Trent Carman from Altus High School are home from the 2024 Youth Tour, and the experience is surely one they will never forget. The week-long trip, sponsored by Southwest Rural Electric, took these local students on a whirlwind adventure in Washington D.C., a trip that even seasoned tourists would envy.

Mitchell and Carman visited the major museums and memorials, took a cruise on the Potomac River, witnessed a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and joined more than 1,900 other teens from across the country for a day of inspiring speakers. They even met with their congressional representatives, learned about the role of electric cooperatives, and forged lasting memories and lifelong friendships.

The trip lasts just one week, but the experiences will shape participants' lives for years to come.

Youth Tour is a long and storied co-op tradition that fits into cooperatives' missions to empower and enrich the communities they serve. Since the program's inception in 1964, SWRE has sponsored over a hundred local students for this leadership opportunity. By educating and mentoring the young people of our communities, SWRE hopes to provide today's youth with the tools they need to become the leaders of tomorrow. Youth Tour is just one way we work toward that goal.

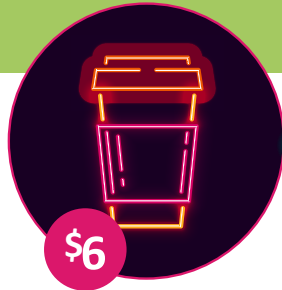
Each year, SWRE selects two winners from the pool of Youth Tour Contest applicants for this all-expenses-paid leadership trip to Washington D.C. Current high school juniors living in or attending school in SWRE's service area are eligible to apply for Youth Tour. Co-op membership is not required to apply. Applications are due December 1, 2024. Visit [SWRE.com/YouthTour](https://www.swre.com/YouthTour) for information on how to enter.

# ELECTRICITY PROVIDES POWERFUL VALUE

Jeff Simpson, Chief Executive Officer

Did you know the average daily cost of electricity is about \$6?

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases. **That's real value.**



Morning To-Go Latte



Fast-Food Combo Lunch



All-Day Power

Sources: Energy Information Administration, MoneyGeek and CNET

If you're like me, there are aspects of your life that become sort of a daily routine. I get ready for work, get in my car and stop for a coffee on the way to the office. At lunchtime, I typically drive to get a bite to eat for lunch. When I end the day at home, I stream an episode or two of my favorite show before bed.

As we all look for ways to save money in these days of increasing inflation, I began to think about my daily routine and how much value it provided me compared to the money I spent.

A morning cup of coffee cost me about \$6; a fast-food combo with a burger, fries and a drink set me back \$10 or more; and my Netflix subscription is about \$16 each month. All these daily expenses add up to around \$85 a week, or about \$340 monthly. And what was the real value—short-term satisfaction and a larger waistline?

This got me thinking: Is this the best value for my money?

The average daily cost of electricity is about \$6. You could power your entire home every day for the price of a medium latte. Now to me, that's real value.

Electricity provides benefits that we often take for granted. It goes well beyond short-term satisfaction by allowing us to charge devices and have cold food and hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate.

Besides the privilege it affords, electricity has also remained relatively cost-stable even amid rising inflation.

As a member-owned co-op, SWRE does everything in our power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains a great value. It's not always easy, as there are several factors beyond inflation that impact the price of electricity—some within our control but most beyond it.

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment, and maintenance and operational expenses. Weather patterns also contribute, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewables or regulations on emissions, shape power costs as well.

Your electric co-op considers all these aspects when adjusting rates, and because we're a cooperative, we carefully consider the impact of those costs on our members. After all, you're the reason we exist.

As we continue to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. You can be assured, SWRE always puts you top of mind and works each day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money.

# HOFFMAN & HUFF ATTEND ENERGY CAMP

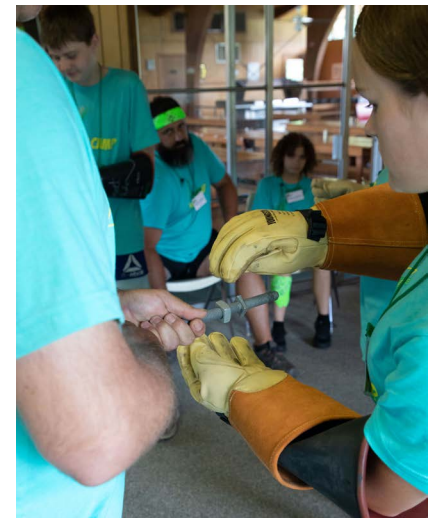
Approximately 75 eighth-graders from all across Oklahoma attended the 2024 Energy Camp sponsored by Oklahoma's Electric Cooperatives. Two outstanding students represented SWRE this year: **Alexa Hoffman**, a student at Navajo Public Schools, and **Daytyn Huff**, a student at Tipton Public Schools.

The camp was held in May and was described by campers as educational and inclusive. Students learned “leadership skills to last a lifetime.” They also learned how to be active and flexible while running a camp democracy.

Some of the skills developed during Energy Camp included: learning to climb a power pole, building circuits, and teamwork through interactive games.

During the week, camper small groups each elected a representative for the Energy Camp Board of Directors. This year, SWRE's Alexa Hoffman served as president of the board. The camp board of directors then had the opportunity to interview candidates and hire the general manager of Energy Camp.

“On behalf of all the 2024 Energy Campers, we would like to THANK the electric cooperatives of Oklahoma for allowing students the opportunity to attend Energy Camp,” wrote the camp board of directors. “We are so grateful for the memories we made and the relationships we developed. Thank you!”



Currently enrolled 8th graders living in or attending school in SWRE's services territory are eligible to apply to win a sponsored trip to Energy Camp. Application details will be available in January at [SWRE.com/Energy-Camp](https://www.swre.com/energy-camp). Applications will be due on March 1, 2025.



## DISTRICT MEETINGS SET

YOU ARE A CO-OP MEMBER. YOU HAVE A VOICE & A VOTE!

District meetings are held each year for members to discuss issues and/or elect representatives to the SWRE Board of Directors. Only members living within the district can vote during a district meeting. A district meeting is held for each district every third year in September. Notification of time and location of the meetings will be mailed to SWRE members in these districts as specified in the SWRE Bylaws.

### District #3

Incumbent: Don Proctor  
September 9, 2024 | 7 p.m.  
Southwest Technology Center  
Room #109  
Altus, Oklahoma

### District #6

Incumbent: Ronnie Swan  
September 10, 2024 | 7 p.m.  
Wilbarger Auditorium  
Forum Room  
Vernon, Texas



Now is the time to schedule annual maintenance for your home's heating system. During fall months, HVAC technicians are typically less busy, making this an excellent time for maintenance and any necessary repairs before the winter months.

A qualified technician can clean filters, check for leaks and ensure all system components are working efficiently to keep your home cozy and warm when the temperatures begin to drop.

### Southwest Rural Electric

P.O. Box 310 • 700 N. Broadway  
Tipton, OK 73570-0310  
Headquarters: 1-800-256-7973

### Board of Directors

Don Ellis ..... District 1  
Dan Lambert ..... District 2  
Don Proctor, Sec. .... District 3  
Dan Elsener, Vice Pres... District 5  
Ronnie Swan, Pres. .... District 6  
Dan White ..... District 7  
Carl Brockriede ..... District 8

### Bill Pay Options:

24/7 Bill Pay: 1-833-890-9510  
SmartHub App or SWRE.com

### Outage Reports:

24/7 Hotline: 1-833-590-0353  
SmartHub App

SWRE is an equal opportunity provider and employer. SWRE *Power Source* is published monthly for distribution to members of SWRE and is produced by Rebecca Chambless.



WE'RE  
PROUD TO  
POWER YOU.