



2026 SWRE ENERGY CAMP

Contest Rules & Application Instructions



The annual Energy Camp Contest is open to current 8th grade students living in or attending school in SWRE's service territory. This includes schools in Altus, Blair, Chillicothe, Crowell, Davidson, Electra, Frederick, Harrold, Navajo, Northside, Snyder, Tipton, and Vernon. Co-op membership is not required to enter the contest. *Children and grandchildren of SWRE board members are not eligible to apply.*

Applications are open from January 1 to March 1 and must be submitted online at [SWRE.com/EnergyCamp](https://www.swre.com/energycamp) by March 1, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

The application has one component:

- **Write an original, 300-500 word essay on this topic: *Follow electricity on its path. Begin with where it starts (such as a power plant, wind turbine, or solar panel), explain how it travels through circuits or power lines, and end with how it is used to operate something important in your life. This could be a device, an appliance, or a system you rely on every day.***

What's on the online application?

1. Complete and upload the Applicant Information form.
2. Complete and upload the Contest Terms & Conditions form (must be signed by the student and parent/guardian).
3. Upload your essay.
4. Upload a headshot photo.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EACH APPLICATION COMPONENT ARE INCLUDED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES.

Applicants MUST be available to attend Energy Camp on May 26-28, 2026 @ Canyon Campgrounds in Hinton, Oklahoma. The co-op will provide transportation to and from camp if needed. Students should not enter the contest if they will not attend camp.

Prizes:

Winners (one from Oklahoma and one from Texas): an all-expenses-paid trip to Energy Camp May 26-28, 2026

Finalists (up to eight finalists): receive \$50 cash prizes

Teachers: \$50 classroom donation for participating in the contest (limit one per teacher)

Questions? Call Rebecca, SWRE's Director of Marketing, at 1-800-256-7973.



ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE NAME YOUR FILE: EC26_LastName_FirstName_Essay

TOPIC: Follow electricity on its path. Begin with where it starts (such as a power plant, wind turbine, or solar panel), explain how it travels through circuits or power lines, and end with how it is used to operate something important in your life. This could be a device, an appliance, or a system you rely on every day.

Write an original 300-500 word essay, type-written on white 8.5x11 inch paper. The student's name should not appear on the essay. Essays will be scored by an independent judge on creativity, originality, accuracy, organization, grammatical correctness, style and content. The judge will select up to eight finalists including the top two essays (one from Oklahoma and one from Texas). All essays submitted become the property of SWRE and will not be returned.

STUDENT PHOTO INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE NAME YOUR FILE: EC26_LastName_FirstName_Photo

PHOTO CRITERIA

Please upload a headshot photo of yourself. The applicant should be the only subject in the picture. Make sure the photo is taken in good lighting. This photo will be used for promotion should you win the contest!

**FIND THE ONLINE APPLICATION: [SWRE.COM/ENERGYCAMP](https://www.swre.com/energycamp)
DUE MARCH 1 BY 11:59 P.M.**

NOTE FOR TEACHERS: SUBMITTING IN BULK

IF THE ESSAY IS A CLASS ASSIGNMENT

If you are submitting applications for several students, you can email a ZIP file to marketing@swre.com in lieu of submitting individual files at [SWRE.com/EnergyCamp](https://www.swre.com/EnergyCamp). Please make sure that all files are named correctly, and that each student has four files with their name on them (applicant info, contest terms, essay and headshot). You may call or email the co-op to confirm that your applications were received. **Please do not submit essays for students who do not want to go to camp.**



APPLICANT INFORMATION

PRINT OR TYPE YOUR ANSWERS. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

PLEASE NAME YOUR FILE: "EC26_LastName_FirstName" and upload it to the online application.



STUDENT

CURRENT GRADE IN SCHOOL: 8th

STUDENT FULL NAME: _____

SCHOOL: _____ SPONSORING TEACHER: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

STUDENT PHONE NUMBER: _____ STUDENT GENDER: _____

STUDENT EMAIL ADDRESS (MUST BE ACCESSIBLE IN SUMMER): _____

STUDENT T-SHIRT SIZE: _____ STUDENT BIRTHDAY (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

ARE YOU THE CHILD OR GRANDCHILD OF AN SWRE BOARD MEMBER?

YES _____ NO _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN

PARENT/GUARDIAN #1 FULL NAME: _____

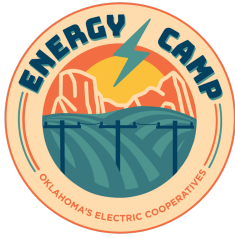
PARENT/GUARDIAN CELL PHONE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN #2 FULL NAME: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN CELL PHONE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN EMAIL ADDRESS: _____



CONTEST TERMS & CONDITIONS

(SIGNATURES REQUIRED)

PLEASE NAME YOUR FILE: EC26_LastName_FirstName_Signed



Please read the following terms & conditions carefully. Students and parents will sign this form & upload it to the online application.

Required Dates: May 26-28, 2026, Energy Camp @ Canyon Campgrounds in Hinton, OK

***Energy Camp Cancellation & Reimbursement Policy:** Students selected and sponsored by Southwest Rural Electric Association, Inc. are expected to participate in required preparatory activities related to the Oklahoma Energy Camp and the full duration of the student program, including travel to and from Hinton, Oklahoma. The student experience has a program value of \$500 per participant. While cancellations are unfortunate, cancellations received/processed 30-days prior to the day of registration are appreciated and needed to allow cooperatives to find alternate student participants. Families of selected students who cancel less than 30-days prior to the day of registration, may be responsible for reimbursing the sponsoring cooperative up to 50% of the program value. No shows and families of selected students failing to notify Southwest Rural Electric Association, Inc. of nonparticipation may be held responsible for reimbursing 100% of the program value.

Student Terms & Conditions: I would like to apply for the SWRE Energy Camp Contest. I am an 8th grade student and understand the material I submit in this contest becomes the property of Southwest Rural Electric / Oklahoma's Association of Electric Cooperatives for use at its discretion. I agree to abide by the rules of the contest, to participate in all required events, and respect the judges' decision(s).

I CONFIRM that I am able to attend Energy Camp (required dates above). I understand that if I win the contest and forfeit the trip that I may be required to refund Southwest Rural Electric for all or some of the cost. I have read and accept the Energy Camp Cancellation & Reimbursement Policy.*

Student Signature

Student Printed Name

Date

Parent/Guardian Terms & Conditions: I hereby give permission for my child to apply for the SWRE Energy Camp Contest. I hereby give permission for images of myself (or child), during the SWRE Energy Camp Contest application process through video, photo, and digital camera, to be used solely for the purposes of SWRE / Oklahoma's Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) promotional material and publication. I waive any rights of compensation or ownership thereto. I agree to abide by the rules of the contest, to aid my child in participating in all required events and respect the judges' decision(s).

I CONFIRM that my child is able to attend Energy Camp (required dates above). I understand that if my child wins the contest and forfeits the trip that I may be required to refund Southwest Rural Electric for all of some of the cost. I have read and accept the Energy Camp Cancellation & Reimbursement Policy.*

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Date