



POWER-GRAM

**March
2023**

Cloudcroft
575-682-2521
Alto
575-336-4550
Carrizozo
575-648-2352

www.ocec-inc.com

LOBBY HOURS
8 AM - 4 PM
Monday - Friday

**TO REPORT AN
OUTAGE, CALL**
1-800-548-4660

**FOR BALANCE
INFORMATION
OR TO PAY YOUR
BILL, CALL**
1-844-846-2695



A Monthly Newsletter for Members of

**OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Left: Photo by Kelli Pruett

Youth Tour Delegates Chosen



Local students have been chosen to attend the Washington D.C. Youth Tour in June 2023. These young leaders will participate in a life-changing week in our nation's capital as they meet with US Representatives and Senators, tour some of the finest museums in the world, visit historic monuments and memorials, and develop life-long friendships and connections with delegates from across the country.

Interested students submitted an application along with two written essays. In-person interviews were held and the top applicants were chosen to participate in this all-expense paid trip this summer.

Lyndon B. Johnson addressed a crowd at the 1957 NRECA Annual Meeting with the idea that rural teens should have the opportunity to experience Washington, D.C. and see their government in action. America's electric

cooperatives were the perfect organizations to facilitate the idea. That summer, a few Texas cooperatives sent teens from their service area. The next year Iowa and Illinois followed suit and brought their own busload of rural youth to D.C. In 1964, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization representing America's electric cooperatives, began to coordinate the activities. Youth tour has grown bigger and stronger in the 60+ years since the first students ascended on the capital.

OCEC sponsored its first group of students in 2017. This year will be the first group to attend after the pandemic caused a cancellation of the trip for a couple of years.

The 2023 OCEC Youth Tour Delegates are shown below. Help us congratulate these young leaders and wish them well on their summer trip!



Alexandra Almanza
Hondo HS



Baylyn Grinder
Alamogordo HS



Warrick Nowell
Capitan HS



Haleigh Shendo
Mescalero HS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.

Source: energy.gov

Scholarship Opportunities Available

OCEC's Education Foundation started awarding scholarships to area students in 1989. Since its inception, more than \$1.4 million dollars have been awarded to deserving students attending a New Mexico university, college, or technical school.

The scholarship is \$1,000 per semester for the first 2 semesters and increases to \$1,500 per semester for an additional six (6) semesters with verification that the required GPA is maintained and the student continues enrollment. To be eligible, the student must be an active member receiving electric service from Otero County Electric Cooperative.

Applications are available at any OCEC office, on our website, or from your school guidance counselor.

Don't wait. The deadline to apply is March 15.

Vegetation Management Update

Crews working to trim trees and vegetation in rights-of-way are currently in the following areas and are expected to remain there for the next few weeks.

- Capitan
- Mescalero
- Bent
- Timberon

OCEC reminds members that you may see vehicles, ATVs and crew members from Rogers Tree Service cutting trees near existing power lines. Vehicles will be marked with their company name and an OCEC contractor placard.

Winter Season Disconnect Moratorium Ending

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2022. To avoid potential disconnection of service please contact the Human Services Department at 800-283-4465, or the appropriate tribal or pueblo entity for eligibility information for Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2022, through March 15, 2023, if you meet the qualifications of LIHEAP and have no past due amounts or you remain current on any settlement or installment agreement for amounts due as of November 15, 2022. Member of New Mexico tribes or pueblos who need help with translation or with other matters may contact the commission's consumer relations division at 888-427-5772, who will contact the appropriate tribal or pueblo official for assistance.

Ladder Safety

Head's up, weekend warriors! March is Ladder Safety Month. Follow these tips to stay safe when working around your home with a ladder.

- If you're working with a ladder outdoors, look up and know where overhead power lines are located. Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines and any other equipment that may be energized.
- Always place ladders on solid, level ground. If possible, enlist the help of a family member or friend to hold the ladder while you climb.
- Remember to choose the right ladder for the job! The "duty rating" should be greater than the total weight of the climber and supplies, and the ladder height should be sufficient so the climber doesn't have to stand on the top step.

MARCH IS

LADDER
SAFETY
MONTH



**ARE YOU READY TO SPRING
FORWARD?**

MARCH 12, 2023

**For account balance or to
pay by phone, call toll free,
1-844-846-2695**