



POWERGRAM

A monthly newsletter for OCEC Members

INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE: SCHOLARSHIPS POWER STUDENT SUCCESS!

The Otero County Electric Education Foundation scholarship program is a beneficial opportunity for area students seeking to further their education. Since its inception in 1989, this foundation has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our community's youth, awarding more than \$1.4 million in financial assistance. This exceptional level of support underscores the program's long-standing dedication to fostering academic excellence and career development.

Unmatched Financial Support for Long-Term Academic Goals

What truly sets this scholarship apart is its long-term financial structure. This program is designed to support students not just for their first year, but potentially throughout their entire undergraduate journey.

- **Initial Support:** Scholarship recipients receive \$1,000 per semester for their first two semesters. This initial award provides a critical boost, helping students cover the high costs of entering a university, college, or technical school.
- **Sustained Investment:** The value increases to \$1,500 per semester for an additional six semesters (up to four years total) if the student maintains the required GPA and continues their enrollment. This escalating support is a powerful incentive for students to focus on their studies and ensure they have the sustained funding necessary to graduate with minimal debt.

This significant commitment to financial aid directly benefits students by alleviating the burden of tuition, books, and living expenses, allowing them to concentrate fully on achieving their academic and professional aspirations. It's a true investment in the leaders and skilled workers of tomorrow!

Eligibility and Application Details

Securing this life-changing scholarship is straightforward:

- **Eligibility Requirement:** Applicants must be active members receiving electric service from OCEC. This ensures the funds are invested directly back into the families and communities served by Otero County Electric Cooperative.
- **How to Apply:** Students can pick up a copy of the application at OCEC offices, through their school guidance counselor, or down-

load it directly from the OCEC website: www.ocec-inc.com.

Don't miss out! The deadline for submitting your application is **March 16**. Mark your calendars and prepare to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity.

Explore More Scholarship Opportunities!

In addition to the OCEC program, students should also investigate the scholarship opportunity available through Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

- This scholarship is specifically for upcoming high school graduates who receive electric service from OCEC and plan to attend a post-secondary school in the Fall of 2026.
- **Crucial Deadline:** The deadline to apply for this separate scholarship is **February 10**. Complete details and application information can be found on the OCEC website.

By offering multiple avenues of financial assistance, OCEC is empowering students and helping them overcome financial barriers so they can achieve their educational dreams.

Apply today and let the Otero County Electric Education Foundation help light up your future!



DECEMBER CALENDAR PHOTO
submitted by Bill Denney

DECEMBER 2025

CLOUDCROFT
575-682-2521

ALTO
575-336-4550

CARRIZOZO
575-648-2352

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**
1-855-940-3957

WWW.OCEC-INC.COM

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
- High Rolls
- Ora Vista

We'd like to ask for your cooperation when you see crews working to keep these areas clear. This task plays a vital role in reducing fire hazards and ensuring consistent power delivery to members.

Please be aware that vegetation crews do not chip or remove dead limbs or brush after they are cut. They will make sure that it is not in a driveway, pathway, or creating any additional hazard. OCEC's main concern in vegetation management is powerline reliability and safety.

WINTER DISCONNECT MORATORIUM

Protection from winter shut off begins November 15, 2025. 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, 2025, through March 15, 2026, if you meet the qualifications of LIHEAP and have no past due amounts or remain current on any settlement or installment agreement for amounts due as of November 15, 2025.

Members 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.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

To maximize your fireplace's efficiency, always keep the damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. An open damper is like an open window, allowing warm indoor air to escape and cold air to enter. Consider installing a fireplace insert, which improves heat output by circulating warm air into the room rather than letting it escape up the chimney. Also, burn only seasoned hardwood to ensure a hotter, cleaner burn. Regularly clean and inspect your chimney to maintain safe and efficient operation.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)

HOLIDAY CLOSURES



LET'S STAY CONNECTED.

Update your contact info to stay in the know about service updates and important alerts.

If your contact info has changed, call us to correct it for you.

1-800-548-4660.



OCEC Headquarters in Cloudcroft, glowing with twinkling Christmas lights during the holiday season!

TO MAKE A PAYMENT BY PHONE OR OBTAIN YOUR BALANCE, PLEASE CALL

1-855-940-3957

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR
APPLICATIONS DUE TUESDAY, JANUARY 20!