

ENCHANTMENT

THE VOICE OF NEW MEXICO'S RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

**OTERO COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

JANUARY 2026

A FLIGHT OF THANKS


Rio Grande Honor Flight recognizes
New Mexico veterans with trips to
memorials in Washington, D.C.

Page 14

Vietnam veteran Perry Ashby touches the name of a
deceased comrade at the Vietnam Memorial in
Washington, D.C. PHOTO BY ELAINE PRICKETT
RIO GRANDE HONOR FLIGHT

Otero County Electric Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Chief Executive Officer
Mario Romero

Cloudcroft Office
404 Burro Ave. • P.O. Box 227
Cloudcroft, NM 88317
575-682-2521

Carrizozo Office
507 12th St. • P.O. Box 669
Carrizozo, NM 88301
575-648-2352

Alto Office
1135 Hwy. 48 • P.O. Box 1135
Alto, NM 88312
575-336-4550

Emergency and Outages
800-548-4660

Fax: 575-682-3109

Website: www.ocec-inc.com

Office Hours
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday-Friday)

Board of Trustees

President
Charles Mulcock, SE District

Vice President
Denny Burnett, SE District

Secretary
Marty Mills, Central District

Treasurer
Scott Shafer, NW District

Kenny Blazer, SW District

Bill Bird, NE District

Cheri Hass, Central District

David Powers, NE District

Tim Rabon, SW District

Preston Stone, NW District

Board Meeting

The board of trustees meets at 8:30 a.m. the third Friday of the month at the cooperative.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

MAKE YOUR MARK

Every generation leaves behind a legacy—footprints that shape the future. The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is your chance to do the same. For more than 60 years, electric cooperatives have sent high school students to Washington, D.C., to discover their voices, step into history and begin writing the stories only they can tell.

This once-in-a-lifetime experience isn't just about seeing the nation's capital. It's about preparing students to lead, grow and make their marks on the world.

What's in it for you?

Delegates from New Mexico join more than 1,800 students from across the country June 15-21 in Washington, D.C. During the trip, students will:

- Develop leadership skills through hands-on experiences and workshops.
- Strengthen their resumes with a nationally recognized program that stands out to colleges and employers.
- Connect with peers from 44 states, building friendships that last long after the trip.
- Meet with elected officials and learn how government affects their communities.
- Experience history up close by visiting

world-class museums and monuments.

- Learn about cooperatives and how they support rural communities across America.

The best part? All expenses—travel, lodging, meals and program costs—are covered by Otero County Electric Cooperative. The program is coordinated by the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Don't Let This Opportunity Pass By

Applications for Youth Tour are accepted until Jan. 20. If you know a high school sophomore, junior or senior who is ready to grow as a leader and take the next step in their journey, encourage them to apply today.

Download an application at ocec-inc.com, or pick up one from your school counselor or an OCEC office.

This is more than a trip—it's a chance to leave your mark. ■

The 2025 OCEC Youth Tour delegates are, from left, Emily Grinder, Isabella Salcido, Marisa Romero and Kenya Fernandez-Chacon. PHOTO COURTESY OF OCEC



Invest In Your Future



Scholarships power student success

The Otero County Electric Education Foundation scholarship program provides area students the opportunity to further their education.

Since its inception in 1989, this foundation has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our community's youth, awarding more than \$2.1 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 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 \$1,500 per semester for their first two semesters. This initial award provides a critical boost, helping students cover the costs of entering a university, college or technical school.

- **Sustained Investment:** The value increases to \$2,000 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 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 Otero County Electric Cooperative. This ensures the funds are invested directly back into the families and communities served by OCEC.

- **How to Apply:** Students can pick up a copy of the application at OCEC offices, through their school guidance counselor, or download it directly at ocec-inc.com.

- **Deadline:** Don't miss out! The

deadline for submitting your application is March 16. Mark your calendars and prepare to take advantage of this opportunity.

Explore More Scholarship Opportunities

In addition to the OCEC program, students can receive a scholarship through Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

This scholarship is for upcoming high school graduates who receive electric service from OCEC and plan to attend a post-secondary school in fall 2026.

The deadline to apply for this scholarship is Feb. 10. More details and application information can be found at ocec-inc.com.

By offering multiple avenues of financial assistance, OCEC empowers students and helps 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. Scan the QR code to learn more and download an application.

