



**Richland Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative



OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND AT YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

Richland Electric Cooperative (REC) is once again offering a unique opportunity to the youth of our community by sponsoring students to attend the Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) at UW-River Falls July 24–26.

One of the seven cooperative principles is “Concern for Community.” This principle has always been important to REC. We are involved in the community in a variety of ways, including sponsoring students to attend YLC, tree planting for schools, purchasing ads for local events, and holding our member appreciation picnic. REC is the smallest electric cooperative in Wisconsin, but we strive to be the biggest in terms of community involvement.

We constantly promote YLC because we believe in the value of the program. In our community it is not difficult to know almost everyone, especially in the schools. When I was a student here I could name just about every person in the high school and possibly even the middle school, unlike my wife, who attended school in Madison and couldn’t name even half of her graduating class of 600. The positive side of going to school in a small community is that you develop relationships with people you have known your entire life. The negative side might be that you do not gain experience in meeting new people or developing new relationships.

Youth Leadership Congress allows students to step out of their comfort zones and learn firsthand how to build new relationships. Sponsored by Wisconsin’s electric cooperatives,

this event is a gathering of over 100 students with the goal of building leadership and teamwork skills, while forming new relationships with students across the state. These are life lessons that students learn before they head off to college on their own.

Some students jump right in and meet new people without hesitation. Others might not be quite sure why they’re there, and it takes some time for them to come out of their shell. But they eventually do and are glad they did.

I often hear parents tell me that their student enjoyed the conference so much that they wish they could go back again.



We have taken students twice if we have room—we won’t deny anyone the opportunity to gain even more knowledge if the numbers allow it.

YLC brings additional opportunities as well. Students can earn scholarships, and they can campaign to be on the youth board. All students have the same opportunity to serve on the youth board but must win votes from their peers. The youth board election process is similar to that of an



electric cooperative board.

Should they be voted on the youth board, students will plan the following year's Youth Leadership Congress. That might not be the best perk, however. Youth board members will travel to Washington, D.C., for the NRECA Youth Tour, a gathering of over 1,200 youth electric cooperative members. This is an opportunity of a lifetime as students will spend a week in D.C. doing tours, visiting national monuments, and meeting with Wisconsin legislators.



Did I mention that all of this is free to your student? YLC is completely sponsored by your electric cooperative, and should that student make the youth board, the trip to D.C. is also covered. One could also say that we also pay the student for attending YLC in the form of scholarship money.

I would encourage parents to speak with their students about this great opportunity. If your student is entering 10th, 11th, or 12 grade, he or she is eligible to attend. I look forward to hearing from you. If interested, please fill out the application below. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to give me a call. —Trevor Clark

Youth Leadership Congress Participant Application Form

UW-River Falls • July 24-26, 2019

Name _____

Sponsoring cooperative _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Gender _____ Grade entering in fall 2019 _____

Age at the time of camp _____

Parent email _____
(used to send links to online health forms)

Please return to Richland Electric Cooperative, 1027 North Jefferson St., Richland Center by **Deadline to apply is June 25.**

REC GIVES OVER \$5,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

Once again Richland Electric Cooperative is proud to have given away thousands of dollars to local high school students who are pursuing a post-secondary education. There are two



ways a student can receive the REC scholarship. If a student attends the WECA Youth Leadership Congress held in July, they are guaranteed a scholarship and of greater amount than those who do not attend. Every year we encourage students to attend this two-and-a-half-day event held at UW-River Falls, where students will build their teamwork and leaderships skills while learning about cooperatives.

We understand how busy student summers can be, however, which is why we developed another option for students to apply for the scholarship. Students who are unable to attend Youth Leadership Congress can fill out the application and complete a 1,000-1,500-word essay on the cooperative form of business and their experience with cooperatives.

This year we had the honor of awarding 13 area high school students with the Richland Electric Cooperative Scholarship:

Ithaca High School

Megan Brisbois – Carroll University

Kickapoo High School

Karlee Leatherberry – Southwest Technical College

Lindsay Neefe – UW-La Crosse

Kayla Turgasen – Madison Area Technical College

North Crawford High School

Faith Morga – UW-Platteville Richland

Reedsburg High School

Amanda Fuller – UW-Platteville Richland

Richland Center High School

Ocean Ewing – UW-Madison

Roslynn Johnson – Viterbo University

Abi Luttig – UW-Platteville Richland

Kayla Monson – Edgewood College

Shawn Spencer – Madison Area Technical College

Riverdale High School

Chloe Klebesadel – UW-Platteville Richland

Weston High School

Sadie Keller – University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

STAY BACK AND STAY SAFE



Working with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, *USA Today* lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the United States. That's why for Richland Electric Cooperative (REC), safety is the number-one priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to you, our consumer-members. Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance—and your help!

Distractions Can be Deadly

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety.

Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews—and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize REC employees by their REC logo shirts and the service trucks with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our local community.

Slow Down and Move Over

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us. 





REMEMBERING WILD BLUEBERRIES



No wild blueberries grew on our farm, nor could they be found on any of the neighboring farms. But about 25 miles west, in Adams County, we found lots of them. Pa was born and spent his early years on a farm in Adams County, so he remembered picking blueberries and remembered exactly where to find them.

On a warm August day, Ma prepared a lunch; we gathered up several milk pails, piled into our 1936 Plymouth and were off for a day of blueberry picking. Wild blueberries, unlike the cultivated varieties, are tiny, about the size of a pencil eraser, so it took a lot of picking to even cover the bottom of a milk pail with the juicy little purple berries. A problem I had—my brothers had the same challenge—was to put the blueberries in the pails we carried rather than in our mouths. The juicy little berries were sweet and so tasty. With the hot sun baking our backs, and the relentless mosquitoes drilling into our hides, we enjoyed the berry feast. We did manage to return home with a few pails of wild blueberries, which Ma mostly canned. But she also made a wild blueberry cobbler that was just the best.

Wild Blueberry Cobbler

For the Blueberries:
2 ½ cups fresh blueberries
1 teaspoon vanilla
½ of a lemon, juiced
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup sugar
½ teaspoon flour
1 tablespoon butter, melted

Lightly grease an 8-9 inch square baking dish. In a bowl, gently stir the blueberries with the vanilla and lemon juice. Stir in sugar and flour. Mix gently. Pour the blueberries into the greased baking dish. Sprinkle the blueberries with the melted butter. Set aside.

For the Cobbler:
1 ¾ cups flour
4 teaspoons baking powder
5 tablespoons sugar
5 tablespoons butter
1 cup milk

In a medium bowl, stir together the flour, baking powder, and sugar. Cut in the butter using a fork until the dough is in small pieces. Make a well in the center and quickly pour in the milk. Mix just until moistened. Spoon the batter over the blueberries.

For the Topping:
2 teaspoons sugar
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

Mix together the sugar and cinnamon and sprinkle over the blueberries and batter. Bake in a 375-degree oven for 20 minutes or until the top is golden brown. Let cool a bit before serving.

Perfect Blueberry Muffins

1 ½ -2 cups fresh blueberries, rinsed and drained
3 cups flour
1 cup sugar
4 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup milk
½ cup vegetable oil
2 eggs, beaten

Line a 12-cup muffins tin with paper liners or grease the muffin cups of a pan. In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. In another bowl, mix the milk, oil, and eggs. Add the milk mixture to the dry ingredients. Do not overmix. Batter should be slightly lumpy. Fold the blueberries into the batter. Fill muffin tin or liners. Bake in a 400-degree oven for 20 minutes or until golden brown.

My mother's recipes found in Old Farm Country Cookbook.



For more about Jerry's writing, go to www.jerryapps.com.

Shannon Clark, Manager/CEO

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