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POWERING THE **NEXT GENERATION** OF CO-OP MEMBERS

A brief message from the CEO for our local youth

As 2025 comes to a close, I want to thank you, the next generation of leaders in our communities. Tri-County EMC's future is brighter because of the determination and potential of young people like you. Whether you've joined us for a community event, applied for a scholarship, or simply turned on a light powered by your cooperative, you're already part of something bigger than yourself.



Looking ahead to 2026, we've got some exciting opportunities coming your way! Tri-County EMC will award ten scholarships, including a \$3,000 Lineman Scholarship, to help local students like you achieve your educational and professional goals. In June, three lucky students will have the opportunity to attend the Washington Youth Tour, a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capitol. We're also proud to support hands-on experiences like the FFA Wiring Contest and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Conference, which give students real-world skills, teamwork opportunities, and a closer look at the role electric cooperatives play in shaping the future.

As you can see, your connection with Tri-County EMC doesn't stop at the meter. As a member or part of a member's household, you're part of a cooperative that invests in you. Stay plugged in through our website and social media so you don't miss your chance to get involved. We can't wait to see what you'll accomplish in 2026!

2025 CHRISTMAS CARD ART CONTEST

And the winners are...

Tri-County EMC invited students in kindergarten through 5th grade to participate in a Christmas Card Art Contest. 234 entries were submitted, and the top three are shown below. The first place artwork will be featured on Tri-County EMC's Christmas Card. In addition to the winners shown here, a winner was also chosen for each grade level. All winning artists will be awarded at their schools. Artwork submitted will be donated to spread cheer during the Christmas season! (96790001)



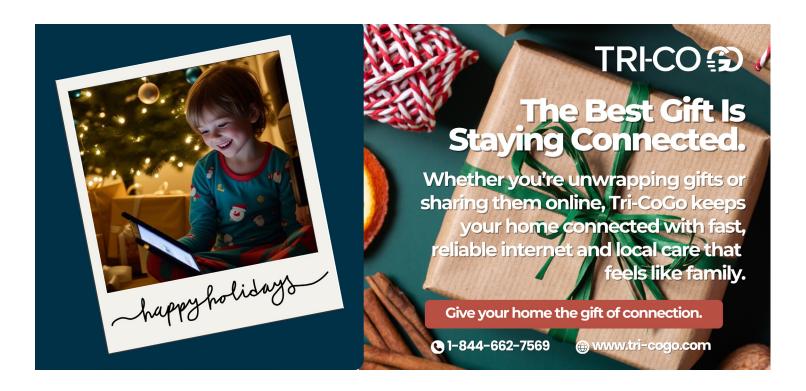
3RD PLACE OVERALL
Tinsley Brownlow
GMC PREP



2ND PLACE OVERALL
Presley Connolly
GRAY ELEMENTARY



IST PLACE OVERALL
Riley Folendore
GMC PREP



TRI-COUNTY EMC FOUNDATION AWARDS TWO \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to awarding grants quarterly, the Tri-County EMC Foundation also awards two scholarships to students in the service area twice each year. The \$1,000 scholarships are awarded based on academics, financial need, and service to others. Special consideration is given to non-traditional students who are working full or part-time and have returned to school to earn their degree. Congratulations to the Fall 2025 Operation Roundup Scholarship recipients! (46628001)



LAUREN CORRIGAN

Jones County

Through Central Georgia Technical College, Lauren Corrigan became a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in 2023. She currently works in the Mother-Baby Unit at a hospital, where she cares for postpartum mothers and their newborns. Lauren loves what she does and is excited to continue her journey in becoming a Registered Nurse (RN). In January, she will begin the LPN to RN Bridge Program at Augusta Technical College. In addition to her academic and professional achievements, Lauren is also very involved in her community. She has volunteered her time with multiple non-profit organizations, including Girl Scouts, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and United in Pink.



JAMARCUS WILLIAMS

Baldwin County

Jamarcus Williams is currently pursuing a degree in cyber security at Oconee Fall Line Technical College while working a full-time warehouse job. Finding balance between work and school has taught him discipline and time management skills. While it has not always been an easy journey, Jamarcus believes the investment in his education will be well worth it. His goal is to pursue a career in information security and become a leader in the field. When he's not working or attending school, Jamarcus volunteers his time participating in food drives, youth sports programs, and outreach activities supporting the elderly and disadvantaged families.

GEORGIA EMC'S WALTER HARRISON SCHOLARSHIP NOW OPEN

The Walter Harrison Scholarship is open to all undergraduate college students whose primary household is served by an EMC. A panel of judges from Tri-County EMC will select one undergraduate semi-finalist to compete for a \$1,000 scholarship at the state level. A combination of need and academic ability will be used to determine winners. The scholarship must be used in Georgia.

Students residing within the Tri-County EMC service area may apply for the Walter Harrison Scholarship through Tri-County. Applications can be downloaded at www.tri-countyemc.com/walterharrison.cms or obtained by mail upon request. To receive an application by mail, contact Anna Smith at 478.986.8126. Tri-County EMC must receive applications by February 1, 2026.

RECIPE BOX

SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

Courtesy of Georgia Grown

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 cups mashed sweet potatoes (about 3 lbs)
- ½ cup light brown sugar, packed
- ¼ cup Satsuma juice
- 1 tsp Satsuma zest
- 1 ½ cups heavy cream (can substitute milk)
- 3 eggs
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- 4 tbsp melted unsalted butter
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- ½ tsp salt

OPTIONAL TOPPING

- 4 tbsp unsalted butter
- ½ cup light brown sugar
- ¾ cups chopped pecans

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a mixing bowl, combine mashed sweet potatoes, brown sugar, melted butter, Satsuma juice, zest, cinnamon, and salt. Combine heavy cream or milk with vanilla extract and set aside.

Using a hand mixer or stand mixer, add one egg at a time, fully incorporating before adding the next egg. Mix well, then gradually add the cream or milk mixture on low speed. Once the mixture is smooth, pour it into a 9x13-inch pan. Sprinkle topping over the sweet potato mixture if using. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-60 minutes or until filling is set in the center. Let rest about 10 minutes before serving.



DID YOU KNOW?

Your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen! Send your recipes to annas@tri-countyemc.com or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.

EARN YOUR PLANE TICKET TO WASHINGTON D.C.

Applications due on February 15, 2026

Do you know a local student residing in a home served by Tri-County EMC who has outstanding leadership qualities and a go-getter personality? Please make sure they're aware of the Washington Youth Tour! Each June, Tri-County EMC sponsors three students on the prestigious Washington Youth Tour, an all-expenses-paid leadership adventure in our nation's capitol. Students on the trip, also known as delegates, experience a week of sightseeing, visiting historic monuments, and convening with other state delegates across the country. (85838001)

The 2026 Washington Youth Tour will take place June 12-19.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Student must reside in a home served by Tri-County EMC.
- Public, private and home-school students are eligible.
- Participants must be 16 years of age prior to the trip.
- Participants must turn in a complete application with parent signature by February 15, 2026.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

- Completed application with signature
- Letter of recommendation
- Personal statement
- Parental/Guardian permission signature
- Current photo of applicant

For more information about the trip or application process, please contact Washington Youth Tour Coordinator Anna Smith at annas@tri-countyemc.com.

ACCOUNT NUMBER Three account numbers are hidden in parentheses in this issue of Current Lines. Find your **FULL** account number and call 478.986.8126 to claim a \$50 bill credit.



Owned By Those We Serve

P.O. Box 487 Gray, GA 31032 478.986.8100 www.tri-countyemc.com

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