

current lines

A monthly publication for Tri-County EMC members

In this issue:	Bright Ideas Grants Due page 1	Washington Youth Tour page 2	Approved PaySite™ Kiosk Locations page 3	Youth Leadership Camp, Recipe Box page 4

Teachers: Win Money for Your Classroom

Bright Ideas Grant Applications **DUE SEPTEMBER 15**.....



The Bright Ideas grant program, sponsored by Tri-County EMC, provides grants for teachers to improve education in local classrooms through innovative projects in grades Pre-K through 12 that would not otherwise be funded. Georgia certified public or private school teachers in grades Pre-K -12 in Baldwin, Jones, Putnam, Jasper, Twiggs and Wilkinson counties qualify.

Since 2008, Tri-County EMC has provided nearly \$250,000 in grants to local schools. Funds for the Bright Ideas grants come from unclaimed capital credits that otherwise would have been surrendered to the state. The grants are open to all subjects. Projects will be judged based on innovation, goals, learning objectives, student involvement and budget.

Individual projects can be funded up to \$1,500. Teachers are limited to one grant proposal per funding period. Grants will be awarded based on merit and must be used within 18 months of the issue date. Applicants may be asked to provide a follow up report about the funded project.

All applications must be completed online at www.tri-countyemc.com/bright-ideas.cms by midnight on **September 15** to be considered for funding. For questions about the program or application process, please contact Kim Broun at 478.986.8126 or kimb@tri-countyemc.com. (71723001)



\$250,000
awarded since 2008

Passed in 2001, House Bill 431 allowed electric co-ops in Georgia to use unclaimed capital credits to fund education and economic development efforts within their service areas. Since that time, Tri-County has funded nearly \$250,000 in Bright Ideas Grants to support local education.

WHO QUALIFIES:
Certified teachers in Jones, Baldwin, Putnam, Wilkinson, Twiggs and Jasper Counties

222
grants awarded

10
years since the program's inception in 2008

APPLICATIONS DUE: MIDNIGHT ON SEPTEMBER 15 Apply online: www.tri-countyemc.com/bright-ideas.cms

Students Return From Washington D.C.

Jenna Mullis of Putnam County and Daniel Hicks of Jones County recently represented Tri-County EMC on the Washington Youth Tour, a week-long leadership experience exclusively for teens sponsored by the electric cooperatives in Georgia.

From June 7-14, Mullis and Hicks joined 1,800 of their talented and ambitious peers in Washington, D.C. to build leadership skills, understand the importance of civic involvement and community service and to tour the nation's historic sites to gain a greater understanding of the country's rich and storied heritage. The trip provide a unique lesson that cannot be duplicated in a classroom.

In Georgia, this year's contingent included 113 student delegates, 16 chaperones and three tour directors who attended a kick-off banquet in Atlanta for the students and their families before departing the next morning for D.C. for the remainder of the trip.

"The students get to see history come to life as they learn of the people and places which helped shape our country," says Kim Broun, Communications Specialist at Tri-County EMC. "They meet delegates from across the country from different walks of life, different backgrounds and different life experiences to give them a broader perspective and appreciation of the world at large."

While in D.C., stops included Mount Vernon, U.S. Capitol, National Archives, National Cathedral, Supreme Court, Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Museums and Kennedy Center. The students also toured the revered Jefferson, Lincoln, FDR, MLK, WWII, Vietnam and Korean War memorials.

In addition to taking in the sights of the nation's capital, students gained perspective on some of today's important issues and their role as involved citizens. Everyone had the opportunity to engage with staff and members of Georgia's congressional delegation,

including personal visits with Senator Johnny Isakson.

"The Youth Tour made a great impact on my leadership skills. It forced me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to learn from other top-notch delegates," said Jenna Mullis, 2018 Delegate. "The people that you bond with are really what make it the experience of a lifetime."

"I learned what it means to be a leader and how to be one in my community," said Daniel Hicks, 2018 Delegate. "I also learned that if you come into situations open-minded, you can experience so many new things."

This year's delegates will join more than 50,000 students from rural areas and small towns across America as alumni of the Washington Youth Tour. (79006001)

To learn more about the trip, visit www.tri-countyemc.com/washingtonyouthtour.cms. The application deadline for the 2019 Washington Youth Tour is February 15.



Approved PaySite™ Kiosk Options

Avoid Late Fees and Payment Errors, Use Approved PaySite Kiosks

Many grocery stores and retailers have recently added payment services to their stores allowing their customers to pay multiple utility bills at their location. While it may be convenient to pay at these stores, Tri-County does not have agreements set up to accept payments from them. Payments are not always submitted in a timely manner from these sites, so funds are not received by the utility by the due date. And in some cases, funds are not received at all. In order to avoid this issue, we ask that if you pay using a paysite, please use our pre-approved PaySite™ Kiosk locations listed below.

Approved PaySite Kiosk Locations:

In Gray:

Tri-County EMC Lobby
310 West Clinton Street
Gray, GA 31032
(Open 24 hrs. per day)

In Eatonton:

Sammons Eagle One
Travel Center
100 Sara Lee Drive
(at Hwy. 441)
Eatonton, GA 31024
(Open 6 AM - Midnight)

In Milledgeville:

Shell Food Mart
208 Roberson Mill Rd.
Milledgeville, GA 31061
(Open 24 hrs. per day)
Piggly Wiggly
731 S. Wayne Street
(Open 7AM - 10 PM)

In Macon:

Jet Food Store
5588 Hwy. 57
Macon, GA 31217
(Open 5 AM - 11 PM)



In Gordon:

Piggly Wiggly
121 College Street
Gordon, GA 31031
Monday- Saturday
(Open 7 AM - 10 PM)
Sunday
(Open 8 AM - 9 PM)

Other Ways to Pay:

Automatic Draft

Tri-County EMC can automatically draft your checking account or credit card on your due date. There will be a 2.45% fee for each credit card transaction.

Online Bill Pay

You may pay using Visa, Mastercard, Discover or an e-check through the online member portal. There is a 2.45% convenience fee for credit card transactions and a \$.60 fee for e-check transactions.

By Phone

Payments can be taken over the phone by calling 1.866.254.8100 or locally at 478-986-8100.

myTCEMC App

Another easy way to pay is using your myTCEMC mobile app. The app is available on the Apple and Android Marketplaces.



By Mail

Pay by mail by sending your check to our office along with your bill stub.

In Person

You can also pay your bill in person at the Tri-County EMC office in Gray (310 West Clinton Street) or Eatonton (112 Recreation Rd.).

Did you find your account number?

Find your complete account number inside parentheses in this issue of *Current Lines* and win a \$50 bill credit. Call 478.986.8126 to claim your credit.

Board Election Info and Ballots Coming Soon

Cast Your Vote

Tri-County EMC's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 18 at 2 PM. In September, you will receive a ballot package via mail (or email, upon request). We encourage you to use the ballot enclosed to cast your vote in the board of directors election.

All members that cast their vote will have a chance to win cash prizes, including a \$500 grand prize. (52429001)

If you would prefer to receive a ballot via email instead of mail, please enroll in online voting at www.tri-countyemc.com/voting.cms by August 30.

2018 ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION



Tri-County
EMC

Local Student Attends Youth Leadership Camp



Hunter Swanson, a student at Jones County High School, represented Tri-County EMC at the Georgia Cooperative Youth Conference held July 16-20 at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center in Covington. The mission of the conference is to educate students about cooperatives, build their leadership skills and promote teamwork through a series of activities, trainings and presentations. During the 5-day conference, students engaged in activities such as the Congressional Insight Workshop, where they participated in making staff, media and legislation decisions to gain a deeper understanding as to why their political involvement in the legislative process is important. Other highlights of the conference included personality assessments and the "Co-ops 101" program in which speakers discussed the cooperative way of business including history, organization, member benefits, opportunities and current issues. Students that attended heard presentations from council members, Georgia EMC, GEMC Federal Credit Union, Dairy Farmers of America, Staplcofn, Southern States and Farm Credit as well as the Georgia Cotton Commission.

Did you know?

Does your home have a window air-conditioning unit? Make sure that your window unit is properly weather-stripped and clean the filter monthly. Keep "fresh air" vents on window A/C units closed to keep humid air outside.

Happy Labor Day!

Tri-County EMC Offices will be closed on Monday, September 3 in observance of Labor Day.

Recipe Box

Pickled Okra

Thanks to Osie Burgamy of Baldwin County for sharing this recipe! **Did you know that your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen? Send your best recipes to kimb@tri-countyemc.com or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.**

Ingredients for 1 Pint Jar:

- Enough fresh Okra to fill 1 Jar
- 1 clove of garlic
- 1 tsp. dill seed
- 1 hot pepper
- 1 quart vinegar
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup of salt

Directions:

Pack the whole, raw okra in a pint jar(s). To each jar, add 1 clove of garlic, 1 tsp. of dill seed and 1 hot pepper. Then, mix together 1 quart of vinegar, 1 cup of water and 1/2 cup of salt and bring it to a boil. Pour this mixture into each jar over the okra. Then, seal your jars.

Tip: How to Seal Your Mason Jars:

Submerge your jars into a pot of boiling water. Water should cover the jars. Boil the jars for 10 minutes. Transfer the jars to a folded towel and allow them to cool for 12 hours. The jars should make a pinging sound as they seal.



Tri-County
EMC

Owned by Those We Serve

P.O. Box 487
Gray, GA 31032
478.986.8100
FAX 478.986.4733
www.tri-countyemc.com

Ray Grinberg, CEO

Board of Directors

Brenda P. Green, Chairman
Sammy Hall, Vice-Chairman
Thomas Noles, Secretary/Treasurer
George "Buck" Comer, Dan Greene,
Chester Mercer, Marion Nelson,
Cecil Patterson, Mike Rainey

current lines
Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members
Kim Broun, Editor
Communications Specialist