

DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

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South Kentucky RECC students find meaning in service and sacrifice

South Kentucky RECC sponsored six students on the 2026 Washington Youth Tour: Jonah Collins of Pulaski County High School, Callie Davis of Somerset Christian School, Kendyl Dunagan of Somerset Christian School, Catherine Hardy of Somerset Christian School, Gabrielle McGinnis of Wayne County High School and Micah Pryor of Wayne County High School.

The weeklong experience, coordinated by Kentucky Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, brings together rising young leaders from electric cooperative communities to experience American history, civic engagement and the cooperative commitment to community.

The South Kentucky RECC students joined Kentucky delegates for visits to Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and George Washington's Mount Vernon before continuing to Washington, D.C., where they toured the U.S. Capitol, museums and memorials.

For Hardy and Dunagan, Arlington National Cemetery was especially meaningful.

"Walking among the rows of white headstones gave me time to reflect on the sacrifices made by the brave men and women who served our country," Hardy says. "It was a quiet but powerful

experience that I will never forget."

"It means a lot to me," Dunagan adds, "because I have a family member who is buried there."

Davis says the Holocaust Museum also made a lasting impression.

"Hearing what the survivors said and seeing their belongings brought me to tears," Davis says. "It really opens your eyes about this event that you have heard so much about in history books."

For Collins, McGinnis and Pryor, the students they met helped make the trip unforgettable.

"Meeting other delegates from across the state truly made the whole trip," Collins says. "With these new friendships it was a blast and I truly hope to stay in contact with them for years to come."

McGinnis says the connections she made with other delegates "will impact me the rest of my life," while Pryor calls Youth Tour "an experience of a lifetime."

On Capitol Hill, the students were engaged and appreciative of the opportunity to discuss important issues with congressional staff members and U.S. Sen. Rand Paul. They spoke up for electric cooperatives, asking about FEMA reform and how to make sure Kentucky



TIM WEBB

co-ops are adequately served by FEMA. They also asked about artificial intelligence and the nation's future.

"It is a privilege to spend a week in Washington, D.C., with some of Kentucky's brightest young leaders," says Mallory Wafzig, the statewide association's manager of cooperative outreach. "As they walk in the footsteps of our nation's founders and experience our democracy firsthand, they are inspired to lead, serve and make a difference in their own communities."

Wafzig thanked the chaperones who helped lead and support the students throughout the week, notably South Kentucky RECC's Justin Mayfield.

Are you ready?

September is National Preparedness Month, making it the perfect time to prepare for severe weather before it strikes. At South Kentucky RECC, our crews train year-round and maintain detailed storm response plans so we're ready when storms roll in. Taking a few simple steps now can help keep your family safe, comfortable and informed if the power goes out.

As you put together your emergency kit, don't forget these essentials:

Medical plan: If someone in your home depends on electricity for medical equipment, have a backup power source, such as a properly installed generator, along with extra medical supplies and a plan to relocate if necessary.

Medical needs: Keep prescription medications stocked and have a well-supplied first-aid kit available.

Light: Store battery-powered flashlights and lanterns in easy-to-find locations. Avoid using candles, because they create a fire hazard.

Water: Keep bottled drinking water on hand. If your home relies on a well, fill bathtubs and other large containers with water for household use before a storm arrives. If you have livestock or depend on a well for your livelihood, have a backup plan.

Food: Stock foods that require little or no preparation, such as canned goods, peanut butter, crackers and



September is National Preparedness Month

KENTUCKY'S TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVES

trail mix. If cooking is necessary, use an outdoor grill or propane camping stove safely and only in well-ventilated outdoor areas.

Information: Charge cellphones and portable power banks before storms arrive. Keep a battery-powered AM/FM or NOAA Weather Radio available for weather updates if cellular service is unavailable.

Money: Keep a small amount of cash available, since ATMs and credit card

systems may not work during extended power outages.

When severe weather does occur, report outages through SmartHub, online at skrecc.com, or by calling (800) 264-5112. You can also monitor outage information through our Outage Center and follow South Kentucky RECC on Facebook for updates during major weather events.

Preparing today can make all the difference when severe weather arrives.

Add SmartHub to your emergency kit

When you're preparing for severe weather, don't forget one of the most valuable tools you already have—your smartphone. By downloading the SmartHub app before a storm, you'll have quick access to important information whenever you need it.

SmartHub gives you a direct connection to South Kentucky RECC, allowing



you to report outages in just a few taps, receive outage and restoration notifications, view our live Outage Center map, pay your bill, monitor your energy use and manage your account from anywhere.

Before storm season, take a moment to verify that your phone number and email address are current in SmartHub.

Keeping your contact information up to date helps ensure you receive important outage alerts and service notifications during major weather events.

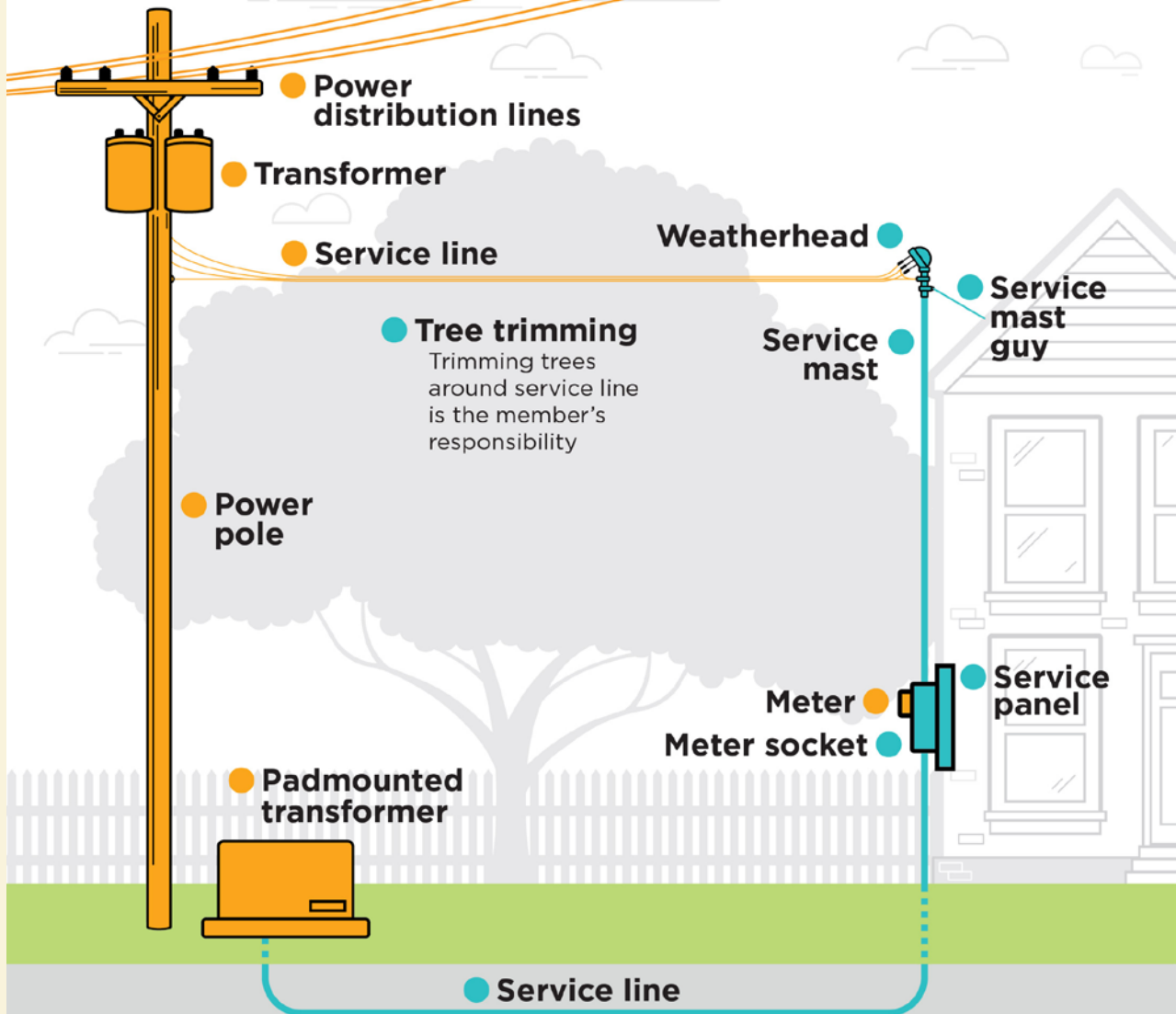
Download SmartHub today from the Apple App Store or Google Play, or access your account online at skrecc.com. It only takes a few minutes to get started, and it's one more way to be prepared before the next storm rolls through.

Who Owns What?

Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.

- Co-op owned
- Member-owned



Note: This graphic depicts overhead and underground service. Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home or business.

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Visit www.skrecc.applicantpro.com/jobs/ to explore exciting career opportunities with the South Kentucky RECC Team.

South Kentucky RECC is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Visit www.skrecc.com to pay your bill online, to visit our outage center, or for more information about the Co-op Connections Program.

To report an outage 24/7/365, please call your local office, (800) 264-5112, or set up your account to be able to text outages. Please do not report outages via social media.

Plug into South Kentucky RECC. Follow us on social media:



Make electrical safety a priority on the farm

It's harvest time in Kentucky—a season of long hours, weather battles and stress for farmers. But we can't let the rush of harvest outweigh the need to work safely during the busiest time of the year.

South Kentucky RECC urges farmworkers to follow these safety tips around electrical lines and poles to ensure a safer harvest season.

- Plan your day's work and know what jobs will happen near power lines—in fields, on roadways, near grain bins or barns—and take the safety precautions needed.
- Emphasize safety above speed in all facets of work.
- Keep people and equipment away from power lines at all times. Use a spotter when moving tall loads and equipment, including tractors with antennas, grain elevators, combines, etc.
- Lower equipment, extensions and truck beds to their lowest position—

under 14 feet—before moving or transporting. Wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can cause you to lose control of equipment and make contact with power lines.

- Take care not to raise equipment such as the bed of grain trucks, ladders or poles into power lines.
- Remember that nonmetallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay can potentially conduct electricity.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. Call South Kentucky RECC to repair sagging lines. If you see a sagging or downed power line, stay away and contact us.
- Use qualified electricians for work on farm electrical systems.

Contact South Kentucky RECC at (800) 264-5112 to report damaged or downed power lines or poles on your property.



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