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**PIONEER ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

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In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 888-551-4140. After-hours calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

Get Ready for 2019 Safety Fest!



A crowd gathers during prize drawings at the end of Safety Fest. A preview of this year's prizes will be posted on Pioneer's Facebook page and at pioneerelectric.coop.

Mark your calendars for Pioneer Electric's annual Safety Fest on Oct. 6 at the Grant County Teen Center in Ulysses! The free community event is hosted in partnership with Pioneer Communications and serves as an opportunity to teach and discuss safety in a fun and interactive setting.

"It's never too early to educate our youth on the importance of safety," said Drew Waechter, communications specialist for Pioneer Electric. "Safety Fest is a wonderful chance for your family to begin having conversations and talking openly about safety."

Local businesses, services and others set up various booths and activities in which families can learn about a variety of safety topics.

"Each year, we look for more businesses to add to our roster," said Waechter. "Seeing all of the various messages that they bring to the event is exciting. It's about making Safety Fest better and allowing our community to make connections that can benefit them for a lifetime."

This is not all the event has to offer. Attendees can view fire trucks, tractors and Pioneer Electric bucket trucks. Additionally, there will be a variety of free giveaway items up for grabs at the various booths. The event concludes with a free hotdog lunch and prizes.

Additional information regarding Safety Fest will be available online at pioneerelectric.coop and on Pioneer Electric's Facebook page.

EMPOWERING *our future leaders*



From left: Cindy Nolasco-Rios, Paige Claassen (2017 delegate and 2018 ambassador) and Rebecca Johnson represented Pioneer Electric during the 2018 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

REBECCA JOHNSON, Hugoton, and **CINDY NOLASCO-RIOS**, Ulysses, represented Pioneer Electric Cooperative at the 2018 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The six-day camp brought together students from Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming for a week of building leadership skills and making memories.

The students' journey began with an overnight stay in Denver, Colorado, where the group was treated to an evening of indoor skydiving. After defying gravity, they welcomed a night of rest before the next leg of their journey.

Winding through mountain passes, the two soon spotted the campgrounds. Delegates found their roommates and were quickly sorted into small groups. Throughout the week, these small groups worked together to help create and manage their very own "candy cooperative."

When not managing candy sales, Cindy and Rebecca enjoyed performing skits, listening to motivational speakers, forming new friendships and participating in a variety of activities. This inspired delegates to focus on their particular leadership



WHAT IMPACTED YOU THE MOST AT CYLC?

"The overall atmosphere between us campers. You meet people who not only embrace what you stand for but form a strong connection with you."

CINDY NOLASCO-RIOS, ULYSSES HIGH SCHOOL



Cindy Nolasco-Rios presents during one of the many group challenges at CYLC.



The CYLC crew enjoys an afternoon of rafting, water wars and summer sun!

skills and see how to best apply them.

“The leadership seminar had a big impact on me,” Rebecca said. “The quote ‘Leadership is all about you, but it’s not about you,’ really stood out to me and it made me think about leadership in a different way.”

The group was also able to take in a variety of sights from the surrounding area. They explored the campgrounds, walked the lazy streets of Steamboat, toured the Trapper Coal Mine and Craig Station Power Plant and waged water wars while rafting. Each adventure acted as an opportunity for delegates to kick back and form new connections.

“Being able to meet all these people really impacted me,” Cindy said. “You can listen to ‘x’ number of lectures on this camp, but it wouldn’t have meant anything without them. These people assured me that being soft and open is a strength to have, never a weakness.”

In a flash, Cindy and Rebecca’s time at camp came to a close. Delegates closed their candy cooperative and donated the money generated to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s international program. This marked the end of their

journey and the reality of leaving camp started to sink in. Groups of students began forming plans of how they’d meet up again before boarding the bus back to Kansas, each bringing back a memory or skill to share with those at home.

“Giving back and investing in our communities is a principle we live by as a cooperative,” said Rae Gorman, manager of energy services. “I believe that principle lends itself to investing in our youth as well. These trips allow our youth to grow beyond their southwest Kansas roots. They are exposed to this great Nation in a positive setting, they are inspired by their fellow youth and are able to see what lies outside of their communities. You will hear our delegates say each year that this trip is a ‘trip of a lifetime’; I truly believe it is!”

Applications for the 2019 Youth Tour will open later this fall and are available through pioneerelectric.coop. Students, parents or educators wishing to learn more about Youth Tour, will need to contact Drew Waechter at 620.424.5291 or dwaechter@pioneerelectric.coop.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU THE MOST AT CYLC?

“Writing the letter to myself really inspired me. It made me analyze my life in order to make valid and measurable goals, for myself.”

REBECCA JOHNSON, HUGOTON HIGH SCHOOL



Keep Electrical Equipment Out of Your Cross Hairs

Crisp autumn air is a sure sign that the start of hunting season is just around the corner. As you begin your preparations and start to scout out your favorite spots, we hope that you keep our electrical infrastructure in mind.

Transformers, meters and power poles have an important role and that doesn't include acting as target practice. While seemingly harmless, damaging our electrical equipment can be devastating to those serviced by our lines.

"No trophy is worth the well-being of others," said Mike Salsbury, safety and compliance specialist. "Damage caused by bullets can be expensive and can cause equipment to fail. This can result in outages, electrical shorts or unsafe conditions for our linemen. We want everyone to be able to enjoy the season safely, including those not out in the fields."

If you accidentally clip a piece of equipment, it is best to report it right away.

"We understand that accidents do happen and ask that you report them as soon as you can," Salsbury said. "Alerting us of any damages caused to electrical equipment helps ensure a quick recovery to those experiencing outages."

The best way to avoid an accident is simply look. Before you begin walking or as you're waiting in a stand, scan around for any potential hazards and adjust accordingly. If you're ever worried about not having a clear area to take a shot, go somewhere else. However, always be sure to get proper permission from the landowner or organization when choosing a new spot to hunt.

Finally, if you happen to notice any damaged meters, transformers or lines while out in the brush, we ask that you please give us a call. Fallen or damaged equipment may still be energized, so it's imperative that you keep a safe distance.

If the call of the hunt beckons to you this fall and winter, we hope that you answer it safely.



Connections Corner

The card that does it all! As a Pioneer Electric member, you have access to some great local discounts. Visit our office to grab your card! Check out our featured deals for September;

AJ Graphics, Garden City

- ▶ 10% off on all products.

Key Office, Garden City

- ▶ Key Office will donate \$5 to the PEAR program for every \$100 spent.

PBS Computers, Liberal

- ▶ 10% off labor for new home/personal computer system and repair.

Puffy's Pizza, Ulysses

- ▶ Large, single topping pizza for the price of a medium.

Perry's Tire and Supply, Ulysses

- ▶ 10% off alignment on passenger and LT vehicles, 10% off set of four passenger and LT tires.

