



MESSAGE
FROM
PRESIDENT/
CEO

**RYAN
BARTLETT**

Sticking to Our Mission

ONE MORNING a co-op manager came to work to find a slightly burnt stick on her desk. She knew there had to be a story behind the stick.

The stick was about 18 inches long and no bigger than the diameter of your little finger. It wasn't big enough to be dangerous if it fell on you—it was barely big enough for a dog to chew on. Yet, as she found out from the lineworker who eventually showed up to tell its story, this little stick managed to knock out power to more than 100 electric meters.

The co-op manager heard the frustration in the lineworker's voice as he described how thoroughly he patrolled up and down 8 miles of line, trying to locate the source of the problem. He couldn't find it, but he

Once he'd found it, things moved quickly. Repairs were made, and power was restored.

Normally, that would be the end of the story—but that story made me think about all we do to serve the members of Taylor Electric Cooperative.

As I learned about this outage, I reflected on the work ethic and dedication of our own lineworkers, who work with diligence to restore electricity in their commitment to serving you, our members.

The story also made me want to share with our members the challenges of power restoration. The difficulty in finding this stick is an example of why, when you call our office, we don't always know how long restoration will take or what is causing an outage.

We do our absolute best, but there are so many variables in nature that we cannot control.

Some would say I shouldn't share this anecdote because if members knew just a little stick could knock out power, they would be concerned about reliability.

I see the point: When you look at all the trees, birds and animals in our service area and consider all the various weather conditions we endure, it's clearly a daunting task for us to keep the lights on. Yet we do keep them on, most of the time. Day after day, week after week, our lineworkers and other staff ensure that our members have power.

Although some might worry about one small stick causing so many to lose electricity, I look at the millions of sticks we face daily and think: Isn't it great that we do keep the lights on so consistently?

I also think about what an amazing group of people our members have serving them. Thank you for letting us do what we do. We promise to keep picking up the sticks every day.

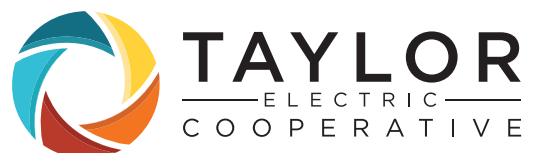


PHOTO BY DENISE BEINHARDT TAYLOR EC

wouldn't stop looking until he did.

He knew that lights were out and members needed electricity. Nobody, co-op employees included, enjoys being without power.

The lineworker was turning around to patrol the line yet another time when his eye caught something. It was the stick—this tiny stick wedged in equipment atop a pole—





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FALL SAFETY TIPS

WHILE FALL CAN FEEL pretty short in Texas, the temperatures will soon start dropping. When it's cooler, you depend more on your electrical devices to keep you warm and comfortable. Here are some safety tips to keep you and your family safe.

Test your smoke alarms. You should test your alarms every month. If they're not working, change the batteries or replace them. Your smoke alarms warn of dangerous situations—especially important when you're asleep. Make sure your family is protected.

Check devices before using them outside. Moisture and rain don't mix with electricity, so make sure you're taking the proper precautions when using your devices outside. Investing in ground-fault circuit interrupter outlets is one way to stay safe.

Inspect your cords. Extension cords can become frayed or damaged. If they are, then they're no longer safe to use. Whether it's Halloween decorations or Christmas lights, make sure there's no damage before putting out your festive decorations.

Clear away debris. Dry leaves can be a hazard. If they're met with a spark, a fire can start. Sweep them away from outlets, fixtures, cords or any other electrical components.

Inspect electrical devices. Check for any wear and tear, and ensure power cords aren't damaged. Replace or repair before a disaster happens.

Use weatherproof outlet covers to prevent rain and dust infiltration, and inspect them for cracks, chips or overheating.

Don't overload your power strips, extension cords or outlets. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations, and keep the load on any given circuit within its designed limit.

Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CONTACT US

226 County Road 287, Merkel, TX 79536

P.O. Box 250, Merkel, TX 79536

Phone (325) 793-8500

Web taylorelectric.com

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Ryan Bartlett

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Payments credited immediately.

DROP BOX

Merkel office near the entrance of the building.

Abilene office next to the first door on the left.

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NOTICE

Effective June 1, 2024, all credit/debit card transactions will be assessed a 2.45% convenience fee.

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taylorelectric.com



Check us out at
TexasCoopPower.com/taylor

A Trip of a Lifetime

NRECA YOUTH TOUR 2025

Every June, more than 1,800 high school students from across the United States converge on the nation's capital for the NRECA Youth Tour—an unforgettable weeklong journey that blends education, patriotism, and inspiration. This year, Taylor Electric Cooperative proudly sponsored five bright students from area schools to represent their communities in the 2025 Youth Tour, giving them a front-row seat to history, leadership, and the democratic process. For many students, it's their first trip to Washington, D.C., and an experience that shapes not only their understanding of government but also their future aspirations. The Youth Tour is not just a sightseeing trip—it's a deep dive into civic engagement and electric cooperative principles.

Meet the 2025 Delegates

This year, Taylor Electric was thrilled to sponsor five students from its service area:

MADELYNN GARRETT, Abilene Christian High School

ASH KOEHLER, Hawley High School

JARRETT ORTIZ, Wylie High School

SARAH MEISSNER & EDUARDO HERNANDEZ, Merkel High School



On the steps of history at the Jefferson Memorial.

These outstanding students were selected for their academic achievements, community involvement, and leadership potential. Each came home with stories of new friendships, eye-opening experiences, and a renewed sense of civic pride.

A Week in the Heart of Democracy

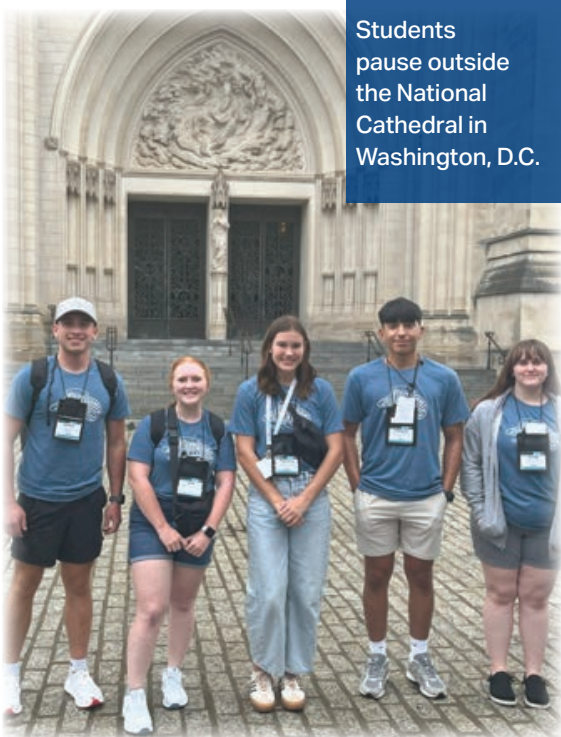
The Youth Tour schedule was packed from morning to night, with visits to iconic landmarks like the Lincoln Memorial, Mount Vernon, the Washington Monument, and the Smithsonian Museums. Students had the chance to attend a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery and tour the Capitol Building, where they met staff from their Congressional representatives' offices.

"There truly is no one word that can describe Youth Tour," said Sarah Meissner from Merkel High School. "It's just the trip of a lifetime, you have to experience it to understand." A highlight of the tour was "Youth Day," where students from all across the country gathered to hear from national speakers, including political leaders and motivational guests, all emphasizing the importance of servant leadership and community involvement. Students also learned about the unique role electric cooperatives play in rural America.

More Than a Trip—A Launchpad

While touring historic monuments and meeting lawmakers was inspiring, the deeper purpose of the Youth Tour is to empower young people to become engaged citizens. Through their week in D.C., students learn how government decisions affect their daily lives and why their voices matter.

"Small towns need cooperatives and because of this trip I've gained a new understanding of what cooperatives are set out to do," said Ashlyn Koehler of Hawley High School.



Students pause outside the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.



History meets nature along the river at Mount Vernon.

For Taylor Electric Cooperative, investing in students like these is about more than just a trip. It's about building future leaders—people who will one day serve on school boards, run small businesses, become educators, or even serve in public office. Youth Tour is a cornerstone of Taylor Electric's commitment to community and education.

Community & Network

During the NRECA Youth Tour, students from across the country participate in a long-standing tradition of pin trading, where each delegate brings pins representing their home state or electric cooperative to exchange with others. This activity not only fosters connection and camaraderie among participants but also serves as a fun and memorable way to commemorate the experience. Sarah Meissner embraced the tradition



wholeheartedly and successfully collected a pin from each state on Youth Tour during her time—an impressive accomplishment that highlights the spirit of unity and friendship the event inspires.

“If I had to describe Youth Tour in one word it would be—inspiring”

—MADELYN GARRETT, YOUTH TOUR PARTICIPANT

Looking Ahead

As applications for the 2026 Youth Tour open this fall, Taylor Electric encourages eligible high school juniors and seniors to apply for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Whether a student dreams of leading a civic cause or simply wants to learn more about their country, the Youth Tour offers an unmatched experience to grow, connect, and lead.

“You guys created such a safe and fun atmosphere for everyone. This program is truly amazing, and we're so thankful for the opportunity you provided, [by giving] a small-town kid, the chance to travel out of state without his parents for the first time.” – Laura Hernandez, parent of Eduardo Hernandez, Youth Tour Participant 2025.

From the marble steps of the Capitol to the halls of the Library of Congress, these five students walked in the footsteps of history—and returned home ready to shape the future.

To learn more about the NRECA Youth Tour or to apply for the 2026 trip, visit TaylorElectric.com/youth-tour



The famous flag-raising scene immortalized at the Iwo Jima Memorial.