

# CEC *inside your* co-op

For members of Choctaw Electric Cooperative | DECEMBER 2024



## Apply now for Youth Tour 2025

Attention high school juniors! Do you want to win a trip to Washington, D.C., to explore historic sites, meet state leaders and connect with other students—all expenses paid? This once-in-a-lifetime adventure could be yours, thanks to Youth Tour!

### How to Apply

Create an innovative plan for saving energy at your school. Your project should include these components:

- Abstract: A brief summary of your

project's goals and impact.

- Eco-Friendly Design: Show how your project will save energy.
- Recycling Process: Explain how your project will repurpose or recycle materials.
- Waste Reduction: Explain how your project will reduce waste.
- Energy Reduction: Show how your plan will save energy in your school.
- References: Support your ideas with

credible references—avoid Wikipedia!

Finalists will be selected for interviews, and three winners will represent CEC on Youth Tour, June 13-19, 2025.

**Apply by Jan. 17, 2025!** Applications are available at [choctawelectric.net/youth-tour](http://choctawelectric.net/youth-tour), at CEC offices and at local high schools. All juniors in CEC's service territory are invited to apply, including private and home-schooled students. Contact Jia Johnson at 800-780-6486 with questions.

**Attention Members!** Our Antlers office will be closing at the end of December. Due to employee retirements, safety issues and a highway project, we made this difficult decision, which we believe is in the best interest of CEC and our members. We have been communicating the closure to our members in the offices for the last couple of months. There are multiple ways members can pay their bills: via auto bank draft, over the phone with a credit card or check, via the SmartHub app, at payment kiosks, and more. If you have questions, please give us a call at 800-780-6486.

## Choctaw Electric Cooperative

Serving members in Choctaw, Pushmataha, Atoka, McCurtain, Bryan and LeFlore counties.

### CONNECT WITH US

Monday-Friday | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### 24 Hour Outage Line

(800) 780-6486

### Hugo Office

PO Box 758  
1033 N. 4250 Rd.  
Hugo, OK 74743

Toll free: (800) 780-6486

Local: (580) 326-6486

Fax: (580) 326-2492

### Idabel Office

2114 SE Washington  
Idabel, OK 74745

Toll free: (800) 780-6486

Local: (580) 286-7155

### Antlers Office

417732 SH3  
Antlers, OK 74523

Toll free: (800) 780-6486

Local: (580) 298-3201

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brent Franks | President  
Bill Woolsey | Vice President  
Perry Thompson, Jr. | Secretary/Treasurer  
Jarred Campbell  
Debbie Cody  
Jana Burris  
Ken Autry  
Stacy Nichols  
Jackson Ferguson

### MANAGEMENT & STAFF

Kooney Duncan | CEO  
Tanya Roebuck | Executive Assistant/  
HR & Benefits  
Jia Johnson | Public Relations Director

### FOLLOW US ONLINE

[www.choctawelectric.net](http://www.choctawelectric.net)



[www.facebook.com/  
choctawelectriccooperative](https://www.facebook.com/choctawelectriccooperative)

# A Season of Safety and Light

## CEC reminds members to prioritize winter safety

At Choctaw Electric Cooperative, safety is of utmost importance.

It's a commitment we uphold year-round. Our team dedicates thousands of hours annually to safety training to ensure the well-being of our employees and our members.

With winter weather on the horizon, I encourage everyone to take a few simple precautions to stay safe. If you have a generator, please ensure it's safely installed with a transfer switch to prevent backfeed into utility lines, which can endanger lineworkers. It's also wise to keep essential items on hand—flashlights, batteries, non-perishable food, and warm clothing—so you're prepared for potential outages. Rest assured, CEC is ready with plans in place to restore power as quickly and safely as possible if outages do occur.



CEO Kooney Duncan

When decorating outdoors, be cautious around power lines. Keep

ladders and decorations a safe distance from overhead lines. Indoors, check your electrical cords and power strips, avoiding overloaded circuits, which can be a fire hazard. For added protection, use surge protectors or power strips with circuit breakers when plugging in multiple lights or decorations.

Take extra care when using space heaters and candles, ensuring they're not too close to anything combustible.

Your safety is at the heart of everything we do at Choctaw Electric Cooperative. Please stay vigilant, and don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions about electrical safety. We wish you a safe and joyful Christmas season and a bright and prosperous new year!

### 85th Anniversary Logo

Choctaw Electric Cooperative exists to provide reliable, safe and affordable energy services to the members we serve. In 2025, CEC will celebrate 85 years of fulfilling this mission in southeast Oklahoma. We are adopting a new logo to recognize the milestone!





## Preserving Our Legacy: CEC Launches 85th Anniversary History Project

In 2025, Choctaw Electric Cooperative will proudly celebrate 85 years of service. We're marking this milestone with a special project to preserve the co-op's rich history. Our 85th anniversary history project aims to gather, organize and digitize a collection of photos and memorabilia that tell the story of CEC and the communities we serve. Some of these images date back decades, capturing the faces of co-op members, employees, and key moments in our journey—though many remain unidentified.

Kenny Sivard, CEC's purchasing agent and a board member of the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS), recognized the value of preserving these memories for future generations. In November, he delivered the first batch of

photos to the OHS, where they will be digitized and made part of the OHS's Gateway to Oklahoma History. This collection will be stored in high resolution and accessible to the public, ensuring our legacy remains alive and available for years to come.

We're calling on CEC members to help identify the people, places, and events captured in these photos. In addition, we invite members to contribute historical memorabilia, handed-down family recipes, and stories and photos from communities on CEC lines.

Through your shared memories and mementos, this project will bridge our cooperative's past and future, preserving CEC's legacy for generations to come.

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**To contribute stories, photos, recipes or other memorabilia to CEC's 85th anniversary history project, please contact Jia Johnson at 800-780-6486, ext. 241.**

### Office Closures

CEC's offices will be closed Dec. 24-25, 2024 and Jan. 1, 2025. We wish our members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

### Do you remember?

Do you have a memory of when the lights came on? If you were living on CEC lines and recall when your home or farm was first electrified, please contact Jia Johnson at 800-780-6486, ext. 241.

### Go paperless and win!

Sign up for paperless billing via the SmartHub app or call Choctaw Electric Cooperative at 800-780-6486. Any member who signs up during the month will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$100 bill credit!

### Last Call for Warming Tree

Help us make this holiday season warmer for those in need! Through Dec. 6, we're still accepting donations of blankets and warm clothing for all ages (socks, gloves, winter hats, scarves and other cozy apparel). Drop off items at any Choctaw Electric Cooperative office, or donate cash and we will shop for you.

### 2025 Student Opportunities

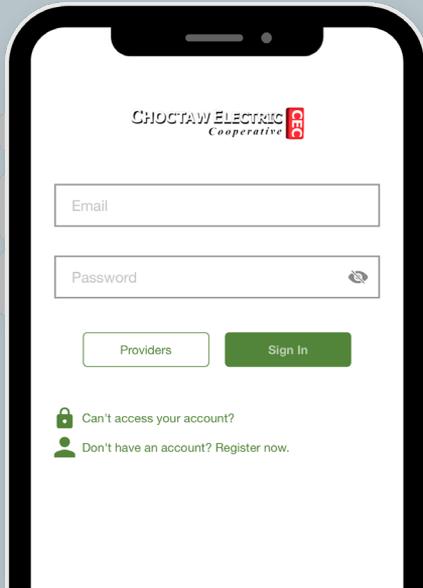
Keep an eye on our website in the new year for details on exciting 2025 student opportunities including Kilo-watt Kids Camp, Energy Camp, and Youth Tour.

### Lucky Acct #38864638

If this is your account number, please contact CEC at 800-780-6486, ext. 241 by the 5th of the month to claim your \$50 bill credit. Unclaimed bill credits roll over each month by \$25 for a maximum credit of \$100.

# Use SmartHub for easy outage reporting

With CEC's free SmartHub app, you can report outages with just a few clicks! Plus, get an estimated restoration time, information on causes and a notification when your power is back on. If you have questions, please call customer service at 800-780-6486.



Scan here to learn more and sign up!



# MERRY Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



## Avoid the energy

# GRINCH



Decorate with energy-saving LED lights.



Use small appliances like slow cookers instead of the oven.



Look for the ENERGY STAR® label when purchasing electronic gifts.



Unplug Christmas lights if you travel, or use a timer or smart outlet.



Adjust your thermostat if you'll be gone for more than three days.