

# Along the LINE

APRIL 2023

For members of  
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

## Thompson 2023 Youth Tourist

Caleb Thompson of Pinetops was selected by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC as the winner of the 2023 Electric Youth Tour Contest.

Caleb will attend this year's event in Washington, D.C., in June. The Washington Youth Tour is a program offered by electric cooperatives throughout the nation to high school juniors from their co-op membership. The winner is selected each year through an essay contest, where applicants choose one of five available topics to write about.

The Youth Tour gives high school students the opportunity to network with more than a thousand students from across the country. Participants will join together in our nation's capital to see our legislature in action. Students will also learn about electric cooperatives and the important role they play throughout their communities.

Caleb is the son of Jay and Billie Lynn Thompson and is currently a junior at North East Carolina Prep School, where he is involved in Beta club, soccer, FFA, Bible Club and much more. He was the winner of the county, district, and regional American Legion Oratorical Contest, and finished in the top 5 for the state in 2023.

Caleb said, "I am excited to be part of Youth Tour because of the opportunities and the life experience it will provide me," he says. "Visiting Washington, D.C., will give me exposure to the capital and opportunity that I couldn't get in any other way."



### Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Friday, April 7, in observance of Good Friday.

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made via:

- **Kiosk under the drive-thru canopy**
- **Calling our automated telephone service at 1-855-356-6358**
- **Placed in the night deposit box**
- **Online bill-pay by logging on to [ememc.com](https://ememc.com)**

# Teachers, Apply Now for Your Bright Ideas Grant

It's that time again! Edgecombe-Martin County EMC kicks off its Bright Ideas Education Grant program and begins accepting applications from innovative educators for the 2023-24 school year on April 1.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC supports the local communities we serve, and Bright Ideas grants are a substantial way for us to help teachers make a difference for our students. These grants give teachers new resources to invigorate and excite their students, and we believe there is no better investment than in the education of our future leaders.

Bright Ideas grants are available to K-12 teachers for innovative projects in any subject. Educators can apply individually or as a team by submitting a simple online application. Applications are accepted April 1 through Sept. 15. Teachers who submit their applications by the early bird deadline of Aug. 15 will be automatically entered to win one of five \$100 Visa gift cards. Teachers with ideas for creative classroom projects that bring learning to life can learn more and apply online at [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com).



*2022 Bright Ideas winner Brittany White from Edgecombe Early College with principal Matt Smith and Edgecombe-Martin County EMC representatives Monica Speight and Winston Howell.*

## Efficiency Upgrades to Help You Save This Summer

Spring and summer are opportune times for home upgrades and DIY projects. If you're planning to make improvements to your home, consider upgrades that promote better efficiency.

Here are a few projects that can help you save energy and money — and increase the comfort of your home.

Installing a smart thermostat is one of the simplest ways to manage home energy use and keep summer bills in check. Smart thermostats are easy to install and allow you to control your heating and cooling system from your phone. You can purchase an ENERGY STAR®-certified smart thermostat for as low as \$100, which can save you 8% on annual heating and cooling costs, about \$50 per year. This upgrade will quickly pay for itself, and you'll gain insight into better ways to heat and cool your home.

Speaking of smart, additional devices like smart LED bulbs also offer convenient control and help boost energy savings at home. With smart lighting, you can set a schedule for when and how your lights should be turned on or off. And the next time you head out to run errands and realize you left the lights on, all you have to do is turn them off through your phone. Smart lights come in a variety of shapes, colors and brightness



levels — and you can purchase bulbs for indoor or outdoor use. Schedule outdoor smart lights to illuminate your home at night and when you're out of town for better security.

While it's not as trendy as incorporating smart technologies, sealing air leaks around your home is a simple, effective way to save energy and lower your bills. Applying new (or replacing old) weather stripping around doors and windows can instantly make your home more comfortable and reduce energy waste. Applying caulk to fill gaps can also improve the seal of your home. Caulk can be applied to a variety of areas, including windows, doors, bathtubs and sinks.



## Join Us as We Recognize our Line Technicians on Monday, April 10

You've likely noticed Edgecombe-Martin County EMC crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. While it takes each employee across all departments to keep operations running smoothly at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, one of the more visible jobs is that of a line technician. It's no secret that a line technician's job is tough, but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Line Technician Appreciation Day on April 10, we want to share some facts about electric line technicians with you.

Electricity travels along a network of wires and poles to power our homes and businesses. Most of the time, this is a seamless journey. Occasionally though the path of electricity is disrupted by obstacles like fallen tree branches, animals or an equipment malfunction, and line technicians are responsible for restoring that connection no matter the weather or time of day. Electric line technicians are on call 24/7 in case severe storms, or other circumstances that cause a power outage. Line technicians work with high-voltage electricity, often at great heights, in all kinds of weather conditions, such as snow, wind, rain, ice and extreme heat and cold.

The work required to maintain the power grid is physically demanding. Our line technicians undergo extensive training and follow numerous protocols to



ensure safety as they maintain our lines and restore power. In addition to serving their communities, line technicians are also called on to provide aid across the state and nation following major storms and during other times of need. This commitment to "Cooperation Among Cooperatives" is one of the core principles that demonstrates the true strength and character of the cooperative network.

Although everyone at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC works hard to provide reliable service, we salute our line technicians who work around the clock to keep the power on. Their safety, as well as yours, is our top priority.

So, the next time you see a lineman, thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing. After all, linemen are the "heroes" behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 10 and follow "#ThankALineman" on social media to see how others are recognizing linemen.

Cooperatively,

*John Abrams*

John Abrams



# Statement of Non-discrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing

deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <http://www.ascr.usda.gov/>

complaint\_filing\_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

## April Rights-of-Way

In order to provide safe, reliable electrical service, we maintain the rights-of-way under and around our power lines. We do this through rights-of-way and vegetation management. This requires pruning, removing, and cutting to prevent vegetation interruption of your electric service.

Throughout April, Lucas Tree Experts will be trimming on Bynum Farm Road, the Pinetops area and various hotspots on the system.



## Along The LINE

[ememc.com](http://ememc.com)

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