

Along the LINE

JANUARY 2022

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Flythe Participates in Statewide Poletop Rescue Competition

Samuel Flythe, First Class Line Technician, participated in the 2021 North Carolina Electric Cooperative Pole Top Rescue Competition at Nash Community College.

This biennial event puts line workers against the clock and each other as they demonstrate essential lifesaving skills and the job knowledge required to maintain the lines that power the lives of electric cooperative member-consumers. To advance to this state championship competition, each competitor had to win a similar event at their local cooperative.

During the competition, each line worker executed a rescue scenario of retrieving an unconscious coworker from atop a utility pole. The competitor, dressed in full climbing gear, must radio for help, scale 20 feet up the utility pole, lower a 105-pound mannequin and begin lifesaving procedures. All North Carolina electric cooperative line workers must complete this same scenario in less than five minutes to maintain their certification to work on co-op lines.

Flythe completed the scenario with a time of 3:48 in the competition.

In a perfect world, performing a pole top rescue is one skill that

you hope a line technician never needs to use. But if they do, the training is an opportunity for the line technicians to prepare and hone their skills if the need should ever arise.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC continuously places safety first, not only with annual pole top rescue and bucket trainings. We conduct daily tailgate meetings and weekly safety meetings, and include special training such as CPR and first aid to assure that our employees are properly trained to handle nearly any situation.



Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Friday, December 31, in observance of New Years Day. Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made at the kiosk under the drive thru canopy, by calling our automated telephone service at 1-855-356-6358, placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay. To report an emergency after hours, please call 1-800-690-0657.



Annual Meeting Date

The 2022 Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, March 24, 2022.

More details to come in the February newsletter and on our Facebook page.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC Hosted EV Ride and Drive Day

One of the most effective ways to break down barriers when it comes to understanding new technology is to get hands-on experience with it.

That's why Edgecombe-Martin County EMC hosted an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ride and Drive event, giving people the opportunity to either drive or ride in our Tesla Model 3.

As with any new technology, people often have questions before they make the switch to driving electric, and hosting this ride and drive day gave individuals the chance to interact with an electric vehicle and ask questions they had about EVs.

For many participants, this was their first exposure to driving an electric car such as their smooth acceleration and stop, and significantly less maintenance/running cost.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC offers a rate schedule that was designed specifically for EV owners who use most of their energy overnight

charging their vehicle. The co-op also offers a \$200 rebate for members with an electric vehicle that switch to this rate.



Utility Bill Assistance Programs

There are helpful organizations that provide assistance to members of our community. If you are in need of assistance, make sure to consider these options:

LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIEAP)

LIEAP is a federally funded program that provides for a one-time vendor payment to help eligible households pay their energy bills

- The applicant must meet income criteria and be responsible for heating costs.
- Households including a person aged 60 or older or disabled persons receiving services through the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services are eligible to sign up for assistance from Dec. 1–31. All other households may apply from Jan. 1 – March 31 or until funds are exhausted.
- Contact your county's Department of Social Services to apply.

CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM (CIP)

CIP is a federally funded program that assists

individuals and families who are experiencing a heating or cooling-related crisis

- A household is considered to be in a crisis if it is currently experiencing or is in danger of experiencing a life-threatening or health-related emergency and sufficient, timely and appropriate assistance is not available from any other source.
- Applications are taken throughout the year.
- Contact your county's Department of Social Services to apply

NC HOPE PROGRAM)

The Housing Opportunity and Prevention of Evictions (HOPE) Program is a new statewide initiative that provides rent and utility assistance to eligible low- and moderate-income renters experiencing financial hardship due to the economic effects of COVID-19. Members can find out if you qualify for this program by calling 2-1-1.

Founded to bring electricity to unserved communities, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has been a cornerstone of community development since the beginning. Being a member of an electric cooperative is more than just knowing there are people out there to bring you safe, reliable and affordable electric service.

Since we are not-for-profit and owned by the members we serve, electric cooperatives have a strong commitment to our local communities. It is one of our seven guiding principles. We take that commitment very seriously, seeking ways to invest resources directly back into our communities.

Last year Edgecombe-Martin County EMC implemented our Operation Round Up program. This program encourages members to round up their electric bill to the next-highest dollar, with the money going into a fund for charitable community projects and local needs. Operation RoundUp is a voluntary program in which more than 200 electric cooperatives across the country participate, including most North Carolina electric cooperatives. The programs go by different names, but they all operate under the same premise: Small change makes a big impact in communities all across North Carolina.

Each month, members who wish to participate will allow Edgecombe-Martin County EMC to automatically round up electric bills to the next highest dollar amount. For example, if your bill is \$68.51, your bill will be rounded up to \$69, meaning that month's contribution is 49 cents. If your bill is \$68.90, your bill will be rounded up to \$69, contributing 10 cents. The extra cents will be put into the Edgecombe-Martin County EMC Operation

RoundUp fund. The cost to you will be 99 cents or less per month and will average about \$6.00 a year per member. Individually it doesn't sound like much, but collectively it adds up.

To sign up for Operation RoundUp, e-mail a member service representative at memberservices@ememc.com or call 252-823-2171. Even after you are signed up for Operation RoundUp, you can opt-out of the program at any time by contacting Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. The Operation RoundUp program is governed by the Edgecombe-Martin County EMC board of directors. Funding requests will be accepted by individual members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC or organizations within or outside our service area that provide services to our members. The board will decide how the money is disbursed on a need basis. Funds cannot be used for political purposes. You can rest assured that 100% of your donations are being used to help better your community.

Together, those small amounts will make a big difference!

Cooperatively,

Eddie Stocks

Eddie Stocks

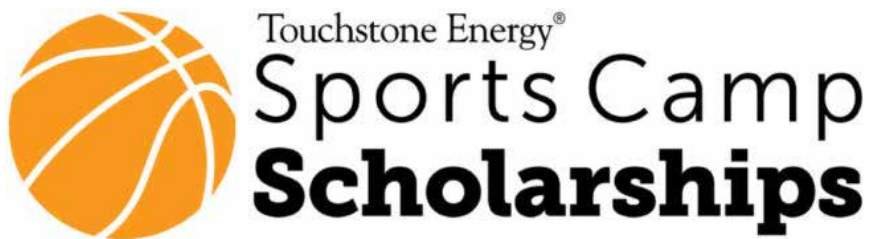


Middle Schoolers, Apply Now for a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship to Attend Basketball Camp

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is now accepting applications for full scholarships to basketball camps at two North Carolina universities this summer.

Middle school boys can apply for a scholarship to attend the Carolina Basketball School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and middle school girls can apply for a spot at the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp held at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. These camps will take place in June 2022.

To apply, students must be a rising sixth or seventh grade student at a qualifying school. Applicants will be judged on their academics, extracurricular activities and an essay. The application period begins in January and applications must be submitted by March 31. To learn more and apply, visit ncelectriccooperatives.com/sports-camps.



Don't Fall Victim to Scammers

We've recently been made aware of several spam calls going out to our members!

Unfortunately, there are those out there who go to extreme lengths to take advantage of unsuspecting members, even pretending to represent Edgecombe-Martin County EMC or other credible organizations partnering with Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.

While we do all we can to inform our members of these scam calls, there is almost no way of preventing them from happening.

It's important to remember, no one from Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will ever contact you asking for payment or for any personal information and we recommend that you contact your local law enforcement agency regarding any solicitation requesting personal information.

It is ALWAYS better to be safe than sorry! If you question that it might be a scammer, hang up and call us directly at 252-823-2171.



Along The LINE
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