

**ROLLING HILLS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

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FROM THE MANAGER

Celebrating Membership

October is National Co-op Month

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When I say Rolling Hills Electric celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you! After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you, our consumer-members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. Concern for Community is one of Seven Cooperative Principles that all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions — because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

Rolling Hills Electric works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board that's comprised of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working

together toward a common goal — mutually benefiting one another and the larger community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board members are invested in the community in which they live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving energy and money is important to you. We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven't already, I encourage you take a moment and download our app, SmartHub. Through the app, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use. And we're of course here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

Rolling Hills Electric is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve. Happy Co-op Month!



Doug Jackson

“As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving energy and money is important to you.”

ROLLING HILLS YOUTH Cooperative Youth Lead

“It is an honor to help provide students opportunities to grow in their leadership potential and develop the knowledge to further engage in our cooperative community.”

DOUG JACKSON,
ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC
GENERAL MANAGER

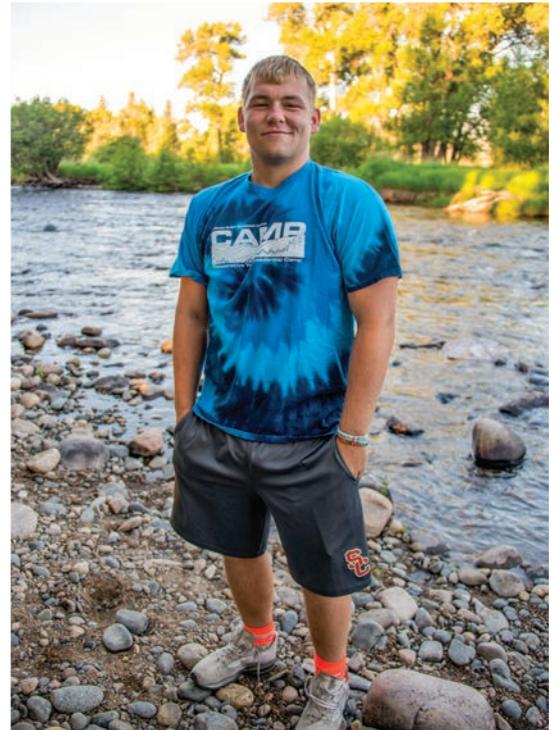
JAKOB SASSE attended the 45th annual Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) from July 15-21, 2022. The leadership camp was held near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and hosted 62 student leaders from Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Wyoming. These high schoolers were sponsored by a total of 32 participating cooperatives across the four states.

Jakob, a junior from Smith Center Jr./Sr. High School, was selected by Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative based on the leadership skills, academic achievements, extracurricular activities, and character demonstrated in his application, which was comprised of application data, a written essay, and scores on an open-book electric cooperative exam, as well as an in-person interview process.

Because Leaders are Made, Not Born

During the camp, Sasse learned how an electric cooperative is organized and operated by developing a model-cooperative with his fellow students, empowering the campers to elect a board of directors, appoint a general manager, establish committees, and attend daily membership meetings.

Camp participants also attended educational seminars on leadership, online reputation management, conflict management, and co-op careers, in addition to presentations on high voltage electricity, raptors and avian protection with HawkQuest, and a tour of the Yampa Valley Electric community solar array.



Jakob Sasse represented Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

Along with its professional development programs, CYLC included a visit to Mount Werner and downtown Steamboat Springs, whitewater rafting on the Colorado River, and other fun activities such as a volleyball tournament, swimming, talent show, and a dance.

At the conclusion of the leadership camp, Colton Hines, Rural Electric Cooperative; Sophie Imm, Prairie Land Electric Cooperative; and Jake Sasse, Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative; were elected by a student vote as camp ambassadors, awarding them the opportunity to return to represent this year's campers at CYLC in 2023.

“Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative is proud to continue our sponsorship of our co-op's student leaders at the Cooperative Youth



H ATTEND ership Camp

“This trip was life changing. The ambassadors and everyone were more than friends but family.”

JAKOB SASSE, ROLLING HILLS CAMPER

Leadership Camp,” said Doug Jackson, Rolling Hills Electric general manager. “It is an honor to help provide students opportunities to grow in their leadership potential and develop the knowledge to further engage in our cooperative community.”

For Sasse, attending the camp as a representative of his cooperative was a motivating experience, saying, “This trip was life changing. The ambassadors and everyone were more than friends but family.”

Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative sponsors the trip of one student each year. For more information on how to attend/send students to camp, contact Catie Mellies, member services, at 785-534-1601.



Volleyball tourney champs!



Jakob Sasse and campers headed out to go whitewater rafting.

The 2022 campers at leadership camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado.



Rolling Hills Employees and Local EMS Complete Rescue Training

Being a lineman is a difficult and dangerous job. It only takes a split-second loss of concentration to be injured or electrocuted. When linemen are doing line work, they can be miles away from help. It is vital crew members have the training to know what to do in case of an emergency. Being prepared for the worst case scenario is something that **ALL RHEC EMPLOYEES** take seriously. Relying on the quick thinking of your co-workers could mean the difference between life and death.

Pole top rescue exercises were performed by all Rolling Hills Electric crew members this summer. This training simulates a lineman having an electrical contact injury (or medical emergency) and becoming unconscious at the top of a utility pole. In addition to the linemen performing pole-top rescue training, this year all employees participated in the emergency drills as well as the local Mitchell County EMS department.

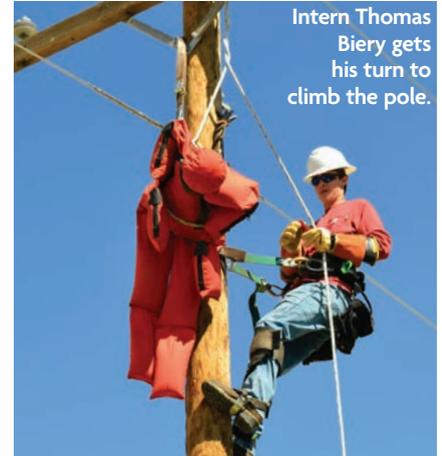
Should an accident occur, the first step is for a lineman to radio in a **"MAYDAY"** call to the office. Office personnel are responsible for asking for help from another co-worker to assist in gathering information from the lineman calling and contacting and directing emergency services to the location of the injured person. By involving all employees in the training, it helps everyone to be prepared for a real-life emergency and able to get help on the way to the linemen as quickly as possible.

These exercises are performed at our Beloit facility on a designated utility pole that is not energized. However, each employee is evaluated as if every aspect of the training were real, and an energized power line were present.

The purpose of pole top rescue is to quickly and safely remove a victim from a power pole. There are many reasons why a person may need to be rescued from a pole and



Ben Ruthstrom performs a pole top rescue.



Intern Thomas Biery gets his turn to climb the pole.

lowered to the ground. Some reasons are electrical shock, heart attack, heat stroke, physical injury and equipment failure. No matter the reason, when a victim is unable to remove themselves from a pole, a lineman must perform a pole top rescue. When it happens, the speed, rescue method, and knowledge of first aid may save a life. In fact, an individual's life could depend on the ability to perform the procedure quickly and safely. Therefore, pole top rescue is a skill that linemen must develop and maintain proficiency in.

Anytime the power goes off to even one customer, linemen respond quickly, knowing the importance electricity plays in the lives of our members. However, this dedication to keeping the power on also requires extreme diligence to perform the work safely. Rolling Hills Electric is proud of its linemen and the important work they do each day to keep our members supplied with safe and reliable electricity. If you know a lineman, next time you see them, take a minute to thank them for the work they do to keep the power on!



Mitchell County EMS also participated in the training.



Loren Kraus takes a MAYDAY call and follows protocol.