



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# Hi-Lites



## Pecans with a Purpose

At Tri-County Electric Cooperative, we believe in the power of community. Each year, our employees come together to participate in a meaningful fundraiser that gives back to the very communities we serve. Through the sale of Mascot Pecans and Specialty Nuts, we are able to raise funds that directly benefit local organizations and families in need.

This year, we are excited to share that our employee fundraiser has been able to support 6 incredible agencies across our service areas. These organizations are dedicated to helping those in need, and we are proud to contribute to their vital work.

**• Irvington U.C.C. Food Pantry**  
The Irvington U.C.C. Food Pantry plays a crucial role in providing emergency food to families facing hardship.

**• Angels on Assignment**  
Angels on Assignment offers assistance to Jefferson County residents in need. From helping with rent and utilities to providing food and other essential needs, Angels on Assignment assists families so that they can meet their basic needs.

**• Imagination Library**  
The Dolly Parton Imagination Library, through United Way

of South Central Illinois, sends a free book every month to children from birth to five years old in Jefferson, Marion, and Washington Counties, giving them access to books that foster a love of reading and learning.

**• Salem Ministerial Alliance**  
The Salem Ministerial Alliance is dedicated to supporting residents of Marion County with rental assistance, utility payments, and nutritional support, ensuring that individuals and families in Marion County have access to the resources they need to thrive.

**• Sleep in Heavenly Peace**  
Sleep in Heavenly Peace builds and delivers beds to children, working to make sure that no child has to sleep on the floor.

**• Mission Salem**  
Mission Salem provides wheelchair ramps, handrails, and modified steps for people in need in the SCHS district.

**A Heartfelt Thanks**  
As always, we are incredibly grateful for the support of the community, which makes this annual fundraiser possible. Together, we are building a stronger, more caring community—one pecan at a time.

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### MISSION STATEMENT

To safely provide our member-owners with reliable electric service, superior customer service, and practical energy solutions, all at reasonable prices.

3906 Broadway  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

618-244-5151  
Toll-Free: 800-244-5151  
Fax: 618-244-1496  
Pay by phone:  
855-385-9902

**Mt. Vernon  
Office Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Salem  
Office Hours**  
Tuesday - Thursday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
(Closed 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President  
Sam Phillips - Salem

Vice-President  
Doug Knolhoff - Hoyleton

Secretary/Treasurer  
Kathy Withers - Mt. Vernon

Michelle Barbee - Salem  
Tom Beyers - Odin  
Jordan Brink - Richview  
Phil Carson - Oakdale  
Christopher Johnson - Belle Rive  
Donnie Laird - Waltonville



**Irvington U.C.C. Food Pantry**



**Mission Salem**



**Angels on Assignment**



**Dolly Parton Imagination Library**



**Salem Ministerial Alliance**



**Sleep in Heavenly Peace**

**Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup>**

*Congratulations to the 2024/2025 Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant Winners!*

*Marie Moore  
Nashville Middle School*

*Nealy Hamson  
Mt. Vernon Township High School*

*Stacie Goodheart, Christina Merrell,  
Denae Jones, and Stephanie Rains  
Dr. Nick Osborne Primary Center*

*Andrew Johnson  
Salem Community High School*

*Linda Klingenberg  
Nashville Grade School Dist. 49*

*Sarah Maschhoff  
Okawville Grade School*

*Ranzie Callahan  
Bethel Grade School*

*Lee Ann Ferrell  
Coram Deo Classical School*

## TCEC Board of Directors

One of the most valuable principles of the cooperative business model is democratic control. Boards of cooperatives are democratically elected by the membership to govern and direct the affairs of the cooperative.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative has a 9-member board with three directors from each of the primary counties served, Jefferson, Marion, and Washington. The membership elects one director for each district at the annual meeting each year, and the directors serve three-year rotating terms. This year's annual meeting will be held on Saturday, July 12, 2025.

Board candidates can be nominated by petition signed by at least 25 members, and signatures may come from the entire Cooperative membership.

### **Petitions can be picked up:**

Wednesday, February 12th, 2025

### **Petitions must be filed by:**

Friday, April 11, 2025

Petitions may be picked up in person, sent to a member by e-mail, or mailed to a member, but must be filed in person. If you would like to receive an official petition along with the affidavit, please contact Lynn Hutchison, Director of Member Services, at 618-244-5151 or by e-mail at lhutchison@tricitycoop.com.

The Credentials and Elections (C&E) Committee will meet to review the qualifications of petitioning nominees and supervise nominations of board members.

If there are no nominations by petition for the district in which a director is to be elected, it is the duty of the C&E Committee to select a nominee(s) for that district. The C&E Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, April 21st, 2025, and the members of the committee are: Tiffany Kluck, Micah Rincker, Sherry Hargis, Jill Harre, Geff Purcell, and Dennis McClellan.

If you would like to review the qualifications to become or remain a board member, or the section regarding nominations, the bylaws of the Cooperative can be found on our website, or you can contact us at 618-244-5151, and we will mail a copy to you.

## Apply Today for a Trip to Remember!

Are you a high school student looking to level up your leadership skills? Here's an incredible opportunity you won't want to miss! Tri-County Electric Cooperative (TCEC) is offering two students from each of our service area counties (Jefferson, Marion, and Washington) the chance to go on an all-expenses-paid bus trip to Springfield on March 5, 2025!

What's in store for you? You'll meet with Illinois senators and representatives at the Capitol, where you'll get an insider's look at how state government operates. It's your chance to gain real-world experience in leadership and government while connecting with other passionate students from

across the state!

But that's not all! TCEC is also sponsoring three students for a weeklong trip to Washington D.C. from June 16-23, 2025. Picture this: exploring the nation's capital, meeting U.S. Senators Terri Bryant




and Jason Plummer, and attending a luncheon with U.S. Representatives on Capitol Hill. You'll also visit iconic landmarks like the Gettysburg Civil War Battlefield, the National Cathedral, Smithsonian Museums, George Washington's home, Arlington National Cemetery, the Holocaust Museum, and much more—all while gaining hands-on leadership experience and making lifelong memories!

This opportunity is perfect for high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are passionate about leadership, growth, and community. It's also open to homeschool students! Whether you're already a natural leader or want to build your leadership skills, this program will help you develop qualities that will last a lifetime.

How to Apply: Head to page 4 of this newsletter to get started! If you have any questions, reach out to Lynn Hutchison, Director of Member Services at 618-244-5151 or lhutchison@tricitycoop.com. More details at [tricitycoop.com/youthtour](http://tricitycoop.com/youthtour). Don't miss your chance to represent your community and boost your leadership potential with TCEC's Youth Tour programs!



# TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

YOUTH DAY: MARCH 5, 2025  
YOUTH TOUR: JUNE 16-23, 2025  
DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 10, 2025

## YOUTH DAY & YOUTH TO WASHINGTON, D.C. CONTEST

# APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Can we text you? Y N      Can we text parents? Y N

Parent Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the program? \_\_\_\_\_

*Using additional paper, please provide the following information:*

1. Personal Achievement (Include both School & Non-School Activities)
2. What are your plans after high school?
3. If you could change anything about your state, what would it be and why?
4. What is the difference between an investor-owned utility and an electric cooperative? Explain the benefit(s) of being a cooperative member.
5. If you win the Youth to Washington program, you may be asked to help promote the program to fellow classmates next year. Describe one way you would promote the program. Be creative!
6. Why are you applying for the Youth Tour Program?

By completing and submitting this application, I verify my eligibility to attend Youth Day, March 5th, in Springfield. If chosen as a Youth Day participant, I commit to the trip to Springfield. I also understand that if I should be selected as one of the winners of this contest, I would take the all-expense-paid tour to Washington, D.C., June 16-23, 2025.

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby give my consent for \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the "Youth to Washington" contest and to take the all-expense-paid tour to Washington, D.C. if selected as a winner.

Parent or Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Application deadline: February 10th, 2025 - Mail to: Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

**ATTN: Lynn Hutchison, 3906 Broadway ST, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864 or lhutchison@tricitycoop.com**