

2011 Youth Energy Camp



Are you wondering what you will do this summer? Do you have a desire to learn more about electricity, power generation and the rural electric program? If so, the Nebraska Rural Electric Association's Youth Energy Camp is calling your name! Each year Norris Public Power District sponsors up to four young men and/or women to attend the Nebraska Rural Electric Association's Youth Energy Camp. **This year's camp will be held July 11-15 at the State 4-H Camp in the Halsey National Forest.**

Set in the beauty of the Nebraska National Forest at Halsey, the camp is casual, yet educationally and personally challenging. The camp program offers each participant the opportunity to grow socially and learn something important at the same time. Through interesting workshops, fascinating demonstrations and presentations by regional experts addressing the many issues affecting the rural electric program, you will leave the camp after five days far more knowledgeable than when you first arrive. A highlight of the camp involves tours of the Kingsley Hydro Station at Lake McConaughy and Gerald Gentleman Station, a coal-fired power plant at Sutherland, Nebraska which will provide for a first-hand look at the process of generating electricity.

Our goal is to offer a program that challenges participants educationally, recreationally and socially. The Youth Energy Camp is established as an operating cooperative and provides a "hands-on" approach to member-owned businesses by teaching approximately 75 students from Nebraska, Colorado, South Dakota and Wyoming, along with the help of adult counselors and junior counselors. The adult counselors are employees of rural electric systems who donate their time and talents to the camp. The junior counselors are selected by their peers to return to next year's camp.

On the first day of camp, a Board of Directors is elected to oversee the operation of the newly formed electric cooperative. The Board then chooses a General Manager to oversee the committee activities and act as a liaison between the counselors and campers.

Every participant has a role in the workings of the camp. Students can participate in the Ambassador competition or actively seek a position on the Board of Directors. Each student must also volunteer to serve on at least one of the committees responsible for various aspects of the camp activities. There is even a talent show where the campers can show off their various talents.

High school students who attend the energy camp may compete for a chance to participate in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Tour in Washington D.C. with expenses paid by the Nebraska Rural Electric Association. Three students are chosen as part of the Ambassador competition held during camp. The competition involves submitting an application at camp, presenting a self-introduction speech and delivering a five-minute speech on an assigned topic. Each camper votes for three candidates following the speech with the top male, top female and person with the next highest vote total becoming next year's ambassadors. The top six finalists and ties are invited to return to next year's Youth Energy Camp as junior counselors.



High school students, served electrically by Norris Public Power District, who are currently in the 9th, 10th or 11th grade are eligible to attend. Camp expenses and transportation are provided by Norris Public Power. For an application or for more information, please contact Andrea Schafer in the Norris Public Power District Public Relations Department by May 1st at (402) 228-2847 or by email at aschafer@norrispower.com.