



WATTS



Tomorrow's Leaders Tour Washington, D.C.

Four area students just returned from an unforgettable chance-of-a-lifetime trip that has forever changed their lives.

The Oklahoma Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. was June 14 through 20. Representing CHEC this year were Lana Edwards of Roland High School, daughter of Clay and Jessie Edwards; Madison Gourd of Gore High School, daughter of Robert and Linda Gourd; Madelyn Massey of Central High School, daughter of Kelly Massey; and Braden Salazar of Muldrow High School, grandson of Lita Salazar.

The Rural Electric Youth Tour is an annual week-long event in June with almost 1,800 high school juniors from across the United States convening in Washington, D.C. The Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) and 26 rural electric cooperatives across the state sponsor students from Oklahoma to this event each year.

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Headquarters Office
PO Box 539 • 1002 E. Main
Stigler, OK 74462
800-328-2368

Branch Office
PO Box 587 • 1800 KOA/Power Drive
Sallisaw, OK 74955
918-775-2211

Pay-by-Phone: 1-888-678-1937
www.cooksonhills.com

Alternate Emergency Only: 918-552-0016



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Felicia Wixom, *Editor*
E-Mail: fwilliams@cooksonhills.com

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If you find your account number hidden in this issue of the *Hot Watts*, you'll receive a \$25 credit on your electric bill.

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Save the Date: The 71st Annual Meeting will be held on October 5. More information will be available in the September newsletter



Stay Back and Stay Safe

Working with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, USA Today lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That's why for CHEC, safety is the number one priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our consumer-members. Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance – and your help!

Distractions can be deadly.

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews— and you. [174905]

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize CHEC employees by their uniform with their name and our logo; and the service trucks with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our local community.

Slow down and move over.

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Routinely replace or clean your air conditioner's filter. Replacing a dirty, clogged filter can reduce your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent.

Source: energy.gov

Upcoming District Meetings



Rocky Woods, Sr., *Trustee*

District 1

August 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Liberty Schools Cafeteria



John Dillard, *Trustee*

District 3

August 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Central Fire Department

CHEC will send notices to members in each of these districts. Please read your district meeting notification carefully. If you have questions about the district meetings, please feel free to contact the office at 800-328-2368 or 918-775-2211.

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The purpose of the tour is to provide a multitude of opportunities to outstanding young people by allowing them to:

- better understand the values of rural electrification;
- become more familiar with the historical and political environment of the nation's capital through visits to monuments, government offices, and cooperative organizations;
- visit elected officials to better understand how the federal government operates; and
- learn leadership and cooperation skills while gaining new friends and acquaintances.

Points of interest this year included: the Lincoln, Vietnam, Korean, and World War II memorials, Arlington Cemetery, Ford's Theatre, Library of Congress, U.S. Marine Sunset Parade, Mount Vernon, Congressional Summit, Holocaust Museum, the Washington Monument, a tour of the White House and Pentagon, and numerous other sites as well.

Each of the students came back with a newfound respect and understanding of our great nation and with a realization of how privileged we are to live in the United States of America.

For more information about this special trip, visit our website at www.cooksonhills.com or contact our office at 800-328-2368.



Braden Salazar Selected as Oklahoma's YLC Delegate

During Youth Tour, Braden Salazar was selected to represent the state of Oklahoma on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC).

Braden not only represented Oklahoma at youth day during Youth Tour, but returned to Washington, D.C. July 13 – 17 for the YLC conference. At the conference, he was able to build leadership and public speaking skills, and enhanced his knowledge of the energy industry and the cooperative form of business.

Braden will be representing Oklahoma for the next year. If selected as the YLC National Spokesperson, he would address the membership at the NRECA Annual Meeting and address the Youth Tour delegates next summer.

“YLC has done so much for me. I am truly grateful for the opportunities I have been given through this life changing program,” said Braden. “I have been chosen as a representative for Oklahoma, and I am very optimistic due to the opportunities this experience has given me.”

We are very proud to have Braden not only represent CHEC, but all of Oklahoma. Congratulations Braden!



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Safe
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