

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

2021 Photo Contest

It's that time of the year . . . well actually, it is well past that time of the year when we announce our annual photo contest. For those avid photographers among our membership, we hope you will participate and send us your work. We especially encourage first timers and our younger members to submit your work.

Photos that are submitted may be used in our 2022 calendar, but photos may also be used for magazine covers and in other publications.

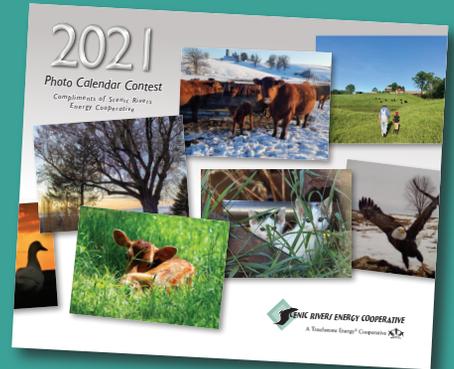


Photo Contest Criteria:

- Photos must be taken within the Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative service area.
- Photos for 2022 should reflect the theme of, "What you Wish Urban Americans could see".
- Photos should have a horizontal (landscape) orientation.
- Photos can be in color or black and white.
- Photos must be high resolution; at least 300 dpi and 8"x10".

Photo Contest Rules and Details:

- Contest will run through until August 30, 2021; however, submitted photos can be taken outside of this date range.
- Three (3) photos per member will be accepted.
- All Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative members 18 years old and over are eligible to submit photos.
- All Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative members under the age of 18 years old are eligible to participate, but must submit a parent/guardian form with entry.
- A completed entry form must accompany each photo.
- Member must own rights to photo. Photos should not be digitally altered or enhanced.
- SREC employees will determine the winning photos.

High-resolution photos can be submitted via email to jmims@srec.net. For a complete list of rules and criteria, as well as the entry forms, visit our website at www.sre.coop. Entry forms can also be picked up at our office, or we can email you a copy. Please call us if you have questions.

Considering a new home or apartment?

Check out electrical concerns too

Whether you are renting or buying, the process of looking for a house, condo or apartment can be overwhelming, especially for young people moving out on their own or new families ready to relocate to larger places. Along with looking for a good value, the right neighborhood or curb appeal, it's also a good idea to look for signs of potential electrical trouble before making a home buying or renting decision.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, electrical failures or malfunctions are present in an estimated average of 47,000 home structure fires per year in the United States, which result in 430 deaths, 1,280 injuries, and \$1.5 billion in property damage. Based on figures from the National Center for Biotechnology Information, electrical injuries in general cause approximately 1,000 deaths per year in the U.S.

Aside from having a professional electrical inspection completed, look for the following warning signs of larger electrical safety hazards before signing on the dotted line:

- Outlets and light switches that are warm to the touch.
- Outlets that are loose, scorched or discolored.
- Wall or light switches that cause shocks upon contact.
- Strange smells (such as something burning or overheating).
- Smoke or sparks.
- Exposed wires.
- Lack of GFCIs (ground fault circuit interrupters) on certain outlets (those near a water source or that could get wet).
- Lack of AFCIs (arc fault circuit interrupters); these help to prevent fires and are required in new builds.

- Faulty appliances.
- Evidence of frequent blown fuses or circuit breakers.
- Missing or broken wall plates.
- Delayed responses after switching lights on or off.
- Flickering lights.

Another good house-hunting practice is to take note if there are too few outlets to accommodate your needs — for electronics, appliances, and other items that will increase the electrical load. If you will need to use extension cords and large outlet strips on a regular basis, you risk overloading your electrical system and creating an electrical hazard.

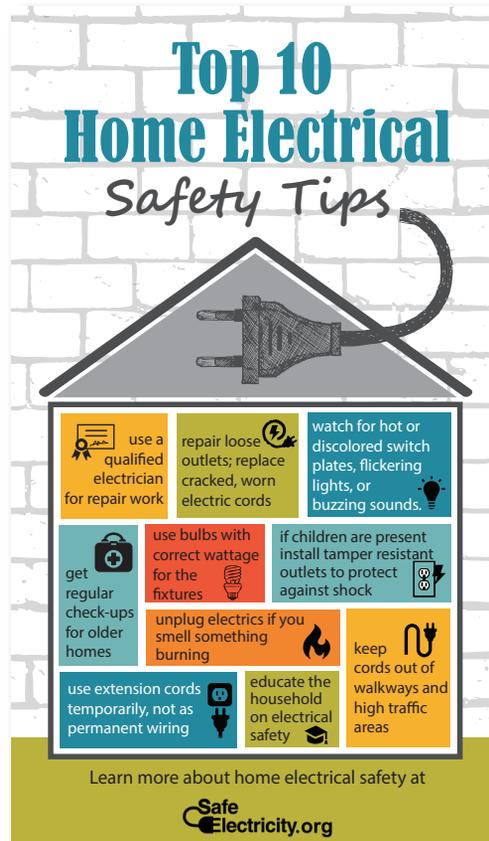
If you are buying a home, a reputable home inspector should note electrical wiring or other electrical deficiencies and code violations. Make sure electrical items are addressed by a qualified electrician before you call your new place home. If you already own your home and detect electrical issues, call a reputable electrician so that problems can be addressed immediately.

If you are or will be a renter and notice any of these issues, advise the landlord right away. Remember that a certified electrician is the only person who should be hired

to assess and repair electrical hazards or address issues, so be sure to verify credentials before hiring one. Research laws to determine renter protection provisions.

Both renters and homeowners should test all GFCIs once a month to make sure they are working and keep an eye out for other electrical hazards.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org. ■





Youth Leadership Congress

Virtual Event | July 13–14, 2021

8 a.m.–noon each day



The 2021 **WECA Youth Leadership Congress** is going virtual! This is a **FREE**, two half-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their **leadership skills** while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of **cooperative businesses**.

Take the opportunity to...

- See **what makes the cooperative business model different and successful**, then apply this knowledge to fun and challenging cooperative activities.
- Identify and learn how to develop your own **leadership skills**.
- Discuss **cooperative careers** with industry professionals.
- Be **entertained and challenged** by highly acclaimed motivational speakers who understand teens and talk about topics that are relevant in your life.



SCAN ME

This is a **by-teens, for-teens cooperative leadership conference** that is planned and developed by a youth board elected at the previous year's event.

**Note: There is a limit of 200 students based on a first-come, first-registered basis. Register soon to secure your spot!*

Who Should Apply

- High school students with family members who belong to a Wisconsin electric cooperative.
- Students active in their school and community.

How to Register

- Sign up at: <http://bit.ly/2021YLC>
- Register by June 1, 2021*

2021 YLC Opportunities

Podcast Contest

- 1st Place: \$250
- 2nd Place: \$100
- 3rd Place: \$50

Scholarship Essay Contest

- 1st Place: \$1,000
- 2nd Place: \$500
- 3rd Place: \$250

Questions?

Tina Walden
Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association
tina@weca.coop
Phone (608) 467-4599

Youth Leadership Congress (YLC)
is made possible with funding from:



National Rural Utilities
Cooperative Finance Corporation



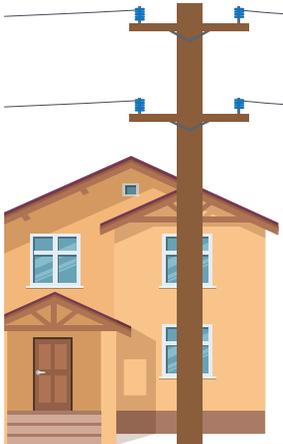
National Cooperative
Services Corporation



Think Before You Climb

Before you rush into a job that requires you to use a ladder, take precautions before you climb.

Electrical Safety



1. **Look up** and around for power line locations before using a ladder.
2. Keep a minimum **10-foot distance** from a power line or other electrical equipment at all times.
3. The minimum distance rule includes you (any part of your body) or **any object you are holding**, such as a ladder or tool.
4. Always **be aware of power line locations** when you are elevated.
5. Sources of elevation include, but are not limited to, a **ladder, rooftop, boom lift or scaffolding**.

General Ladder Safety

1. Use a ladder on a **stable, level surface**.
2. Maintain **three-point contact** on the ladder when climbing.
3. Three points of contact mean **two hands and a foot** or **two feet and a hand**.
4. Keep your body **near the middle of the step** and face the ladder when climbing.
5. **Do not use the top step/rung** of a ladder unless designed for that purpose.
6. For a stepladder, make sure the base is **fully open** and the spreaders are **locked**.



Learn more about electrical safety:



Sources:
OSHA,
American Ladder Institute



Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service will be finishing the trimming on the Argyle Substation east circuit in Lafayette County. They will be starting to trim on the Platteville Substation in Grant County during the month of May.

It is important for SREC to maintain its rights-of-way for the following reasons:

- Accessibility for field crews, vehicles and equipment
- Fire prevention
- Reliable electric service
- Quality service with the reduction of outages and blinks
- Safety for workers and the public
- Meeting state and federal code requirements

On a daily basis, SREC employees and contractors are working throughout the area, at times on your property, to operate and maintain the electric system and our rights-of-ways. During this time, we especially appreciate your cooperation as we maintain social distancing between our essential staff and our members. **If you have questions, please contact Jay at jgardner@srec.net or call 800-236-2141 ext. 566.**



Watt's Happening is published monthly as an information service to the member-owners of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Any questions or comments can be directed to Watt's Happening, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free 800-236-2141.

www.sre.coop

Steve LucasCEO

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