



4815 E HWY 54
EL DORADO SPRINGS, MO 64744
CONTACT: 417-876-2721
FAX: 417-876-5368
WEBSITE: SACOSAGE.COM



YOUR LOCAL NEWSLETTER

August 2026

Alec Farran Represents Sac Osage Electric Cooperative in Washington D.C.

Jefferson City, MO – One hundred and ten high school students participated in Missouri's 63rd annual Missouri Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 14-20. The local delegate was Alec Farran, from El Dorado Springs. He was sponsored by Sac Osage Electric Cooperative.

Youth Tour takes the best and brightest high school students from Missouri's rural schools on an all-expense-paid trip to our nation's capital. The seven-day tour provides an action-filled week for the students, offering them opportunities to learn firsthand what it is like to be involved in politics, leadership positions, community service and today's pressing issues while having fun touring the many monuments.

"The Youth Tour is the highlight of the summer for many students and we're proud to send our best and brightest to our nation's capital to participate," said Chris Massman, vice president of Member Services for the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. "Each of these delegates will meet someone or see something that inspires them, and in some cases will create a path to their future career."

Highlights of the trip include visiting representatives from their congressional districts, touring monuments, the Smithsonian Institution's museums, Arlington National Cemetery and the International Spy Museum. The group also took a sightseeing and dance cruise on the Potomac River one evening with the delegations from five other states.

Other events of the week included participation in the Electric Youth

Day, during which a special program coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association brought together over 2,000 Youth Tour delegates from across the United States. The delegates enjoyed featured speeches by government leaders and motivational speakers, such as Mike Schlappi, an inspiring four-time Paralympic medalist and two-time world wheelchair basketball champion.

Since 1958, the nation's cooperative electric utilities have sponsored more than 60,000 high school students on this trip of a lifetime. For more information about the Missouri Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, please go to www.moyouthtour.com.

In March, Alec Farran was selected by a panel of judges from other co-ops to represent Sac Osage Electric Cooperative in Washington D.C. as a Youth Tour Delegate.

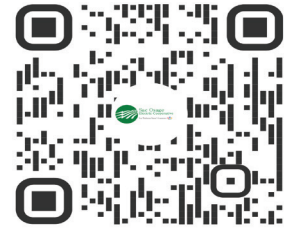
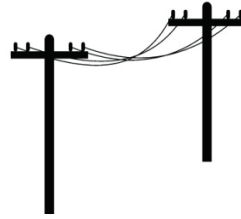
While attending the Youth Tour Banquet in Columbia on June 14th, Youth Tour Director Chris Massman announced Alec was picked as a finalist for the YLC (Youth Leadership Council) to possibly represent Missouri on the national level. Making it to the finals is a huge achievement. Alec was 1 of the 6 finalists chosen from 31 applicants.

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Delegate Alec Farran had a good run for YLC but had some tough competition in this contest.

Aminah Harmon was selected as the 2026 Missouri YLC representative, from the Laclede Electric Cooperative.

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative is proud of the accomplishments Alec made during the Youth Tour competition.





2026 Annual Meeting

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative reached a major milestone in 2025—85 years of service since 1940. Throughout those decades, the Cooperative has been a steady presence in the community, delivering reliable electricity to its members.

Annual meetings have long been a Cooperative tradition. Members looked forward to good food, entertainment, prize drawings, and the business meeting that wrapped up each event.

When COVID-19 hit, Sac Osage Electric adapted. To keep members safe, the Cooperative switched to a drive-through format for annual meetings.

The shift to drive-through meetings taught Sac Osage Electric Cooperative something important: members loved getting the chance to come by the co-op and receive their appreciation goodies throughout the day. Member turnouts were at all-time highs for the drive through format.

Based on that insight, the Cooperative has decided to alternate formats. Traditional events will happen every five years to mark major milestones. In the years between, the drive-through format will continue.

This year, 2026, falls in the drive-through rotation. The annual meeting will be held on September 8th using the drive-through format, with the business meeting beginning at 6:00 PM.

Fishing for Information?

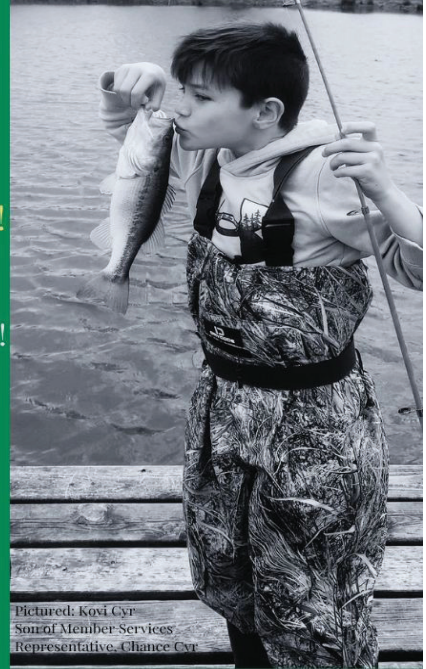
Download the SmartHub app!

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Pictured: Kovi Cyr
Son of Member Services
Representative, Chance Cyr

Make Your Home More Energy Efficient - Safelectricity.org

There are many steps you can take to make your home a greener one, no matter the weather.

Cut your energy costs by following these efficiency steps year round:

Update your insulation. This helps keep cool air in your home during summer months and warm air in during the winter.

Invest in a smart or programmable thermostat. With a programmable thermostat, you can set the temperatures to automatically adjust for when you are home and when you are away. A smart version learns your habits and implements them. Many models know when you aren't home and heats or cools accordingly.

And turn thermostats down in the winter and up in the summer. Dress in layers to stay warm, or use fans to stay cool.

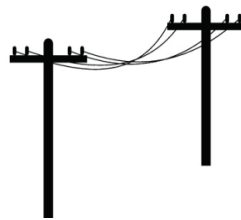
Make use of ceiling fans, and make sure they are circulating air in the correct direction for the season. Ceiling fans should operate in a counter-clockwise direction during warm months and in a clockwise direction during cold months.

Use curtains or window blinds to your advantage. Close curtains or blinds in the summer when the sun is out to keep the room cool, and leave them open in the winter to let the heat from the sun warm up the room.

Seal cracks around the house to reduce heat loss in the winter and cool air loss in the summer by using caulking and weather-stripping around windows and doors.

Replace older style bulbs with energy efficient versions.

Save money and ease stress on the electric grid by doing activities that require lots of energy in late evening



or at night, as electricity demand is at its highest in the afternoon and early evening.

Turn off or unplug electronics you are not using. Use power strips so that you can turn multiple electronics on and off at once.

Plug your computer and television into smart power strips. Smart strips sense when a computer is in sleep mode and when a TV is turned off. The smart strip will turn off all related electronics—like cable boxes, video game consoles, and printers.

Use efficiency settings on televisions, computers, and other electronics.

Turn off lights, fans, and electronics that are not in use when you leave a room.

Adjust your own habits to increase efficiency. Turn off lights when leaving a room, set computers to go into sleep mode when not in use, and make sure nothing in your home is covering vents. This allows for continued air flow and reduces the work for the furnace or air conditioning unit.

Downed Power Line Safety Tips - Members 1st

Power lines are the veins of energy distribution across the country. These vital connections help your local cooperative send electricity to homes, businesses and schools in their service area.

While these lines are essential for power distribution, extreme events can cause them to fall, creating a dangerous situation. Keep reading to learn more about how downed power lines can pose a threat to your safety and what to

do if you come across one.

Downed Power Line: Don't Meet Your Potential

You may have heard about reaching your potential in your academic or professional career. However, you want to steer clear of meeting two potential outcomes when it comes to downed power lines: touch and step potential.

Downed Power Line: Touch Potential

Touch potential is the voltage between the energized grounded object and the person's feet in contact with the object.

For example, touch potential could happen if a person has a vehicle accident involving a power line, then tries to exit their vehicle while a live power line is touching it. If they have one hand on the outside of the car and touch the ground with one foot, electricity can flow from the vehicle through the body to their foot.

Downed Power Line: Step Potential

Step potential is the voltage difference between the feet of a person near an energized, grounded object.

Think of what it looks like when you throw a stone into a lake; energy from downed power lines has a ripple effect across the energized surface of the ground. As it goes out from the center, the voltage becomes lower with each "ring." If you step from a higher voltage "ring" into a lower voltage "ring" or vice versa, this is where the danger comes in. The higher voltage goes into one leg and out the other.

If someone walks with a regular stride to or away from a downed power line, your body will act as the conductor as it has less resistance than the ground does.

While the area around a downed power line may look safe, energy can travel several yards away from the point of

origin. Learn more about this topic and how to stay safe by listening to our vehicle crash safety podcast.

Downed Power Line Safety: Common Scenarios

Car Crash - Unfortunately, vehicle accidents with power lines happen every year. What's most frightening is that the initial impact may not harm the driver, but the downed lines can cause electrocution if the driver gets out of the car unsafely.

If you are in a car accident involving a power line, stay in your car and call your local cooperative or emergency services. The only reason to exit the vehicle before help arrives is if the vehicle is on fire. In this instance, jump away from the vehicle with both feet together so your body clears the vehicle before touching the ground. Land with both feet together. Shuffle or hop away at least 50 feet or further.

Natural Disaster - Tornadoes, floods and other intense storms can bring down power lines, leaving them strung across your home, road or neighborhood. If this happens, it's best to try to stay at least 50 feet away from the downed lines.

Downed Power Line Safety: Call Your Local Cooperative

Don't try to move a downed power line yourself. If you see downed power lines on someone else's car, don't get near them. Putting yourself at risk won't improve your situation.

If you see a downed power line, call 9-1-1, then call your local electric cooperative to make them aware of the situation. Your cooperative will send a response team to handle the situation safely.

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