




the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

a monthly newsletter from **Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric** February 2023

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) legacy members will notice the Wholesale Market Adjustment (WMA) is increasing on their statement next month.

Steele-Waseca SMEC (Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative) members (former Alliant Energy customers) will notice an increase to the monthly service charge on their statement next month. For details on each, please read SWCE General Manager Syd Briggs' column on Page 2 of this month's *Sparks*.

Steele-Waseca announce 2023 residential rebates available to members

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric member-owners seeking to add value to their energy dollar may utilize rebates offered by the co-op in 2023.

Rebates for central air conditioners and air source heat pumps are listed below, and require a quality installation. To find a qualified installer, visit Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop, click on "Residential Rebates," then "Qualified Installers List," listed under "Quick Links."

	A/C	ASHP
14.5-14.9 SEER	\$50	\$200
15.0-15.9 SEER	\$50	\$300
16.0+ SEER	\$50	\$400

rebate; Energy Star labeled electric clothes dryers are eligible for a \$25 rebate; a central air conditioner or ASHP tune up is eligible for a \$25 rebate per unit; variable speed pool pumps with the Energy Star label are eligible for a \$100 rebate; and pool ASHPs are eligible for a \$200 rebate.




ENERGY STAR

Products with the Energy Star label have met federal specifications regarding energy efficiency.

Steele-Waseca is offering up to \$500 for members participating in the ChargeWise program. This is a voluntary program offered by participating electric cooperatives for qualified members who own a plug-in (PEV) or plug-in hybrid (PHEV) electric vehicle.

The program allows members to charge their PEV/PHEV in their garage or carport using electricity from a specially installed 20-amp ChargeWise outlet. This ChargeWise outlet only provides energy during the off-peak hours of 11 p.m.-7 a.m. Members simply plug in the PEV in the evening and their vehicle is charged during those overnight hours at a reduced rate. They wake up to a fully-charged electric vehicle.

If you have a question, or wish to request a rebate form, please call Cindy Butterfield at Steele-Waseca weekdays between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rebate forms are available at Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop, by clicking on "Residential Rebates." Please visit energystar.gov to check the model number of qualifying products. 1025383

Completed rebate forms must be accompanied with a copy of the receipt and submitted within 90 days of purchase. Please allow 6-8 weeks for processing. The rebate will appear as a credit on your Steele-Waseca bill. 

 #swceINNOVATION

inside connections

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- 8 Applications being accepted for 2023 Washington, D.C. Youth Tour

calendar of events

February

- 1 National Freedom Day
- 2 Groundhog Day
- 4 National Thank a Mail Carrier Day
- 12 Super Bowl LVII
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 20 Presidents' Day

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Website: www.swce.coop

Email: info@swce.coop



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Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

Operations Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

**For Customer Service, Billing
 Questions and Power Outages
 Phone:**

507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514

Before calling to report an outage

1. Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home and on meter pole.
2. Check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
3. Look for possible causes such as a tree branch on wires, a broken pole, twisted wires, etc.

To leave a non-emergency message whenever SWCE's Office is closed:

Phone 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514 and listen to the prompts. Please have your account number, phone number, and name on the account available.

**Call Before You Dig
 Gopher State One Call
 811 or 800-252-1166**

**48-hour notice required for ALL
 underground cable locations**

manager connection



By Syd Briggs,
 General Manager

As most of our members know, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric passes increases in the cost of power onto our members through the Wholesale Market Adjustment (WMA) on our legacy members and the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for our SMEC members who joined the co-op on July 31, 2015, following the closing sale of the former Alliant Energy service territory.

Fortunately, we have not had an increase to our rates for either factor since 2018. We have also not had an increase system wide in our rates for our service delivery expenses (cost of service) since 2013.

Recently, our two major power providers announced expected increases to vary from 5.3% to 7.9%. As successful as Steele-Waseca is at reducing costs without reducing service (we have been having excellent years with very low instances of outages), it is necessary to pass the increased cost on to our members in 2023. 1050868

This is the first budgeted increase to wholesale rates from Great River Energy (GRE), our main power supplier, in five years. Steele-Waseca and GRE are very fortunate to have gone this long with little or no increases to any of the components in our rates. The average increase to our rates system wide will be 4.1%.

In December 2022, the Steele-Waseca board of directors reviewed and approved the budget for 2023 with increases in the WMA for legacy members and increases in monthly fees for SMEC members to offset the expected increase in the cost of power. The increase in the WMA will go from \$0.00581/kWh (kilowatt hour) to \$0.01086/kWh. There will be a corresponding increase in the monthly fee of our SMEC members as we continue to move both our legacy and SMEC rates to a point where we can have just one set of rates system wide.

Your Steele-Waseca board of directors and employees have been working very hard year after year to minimize expenses without sacrificing service and the results have been excellent. Our expenses,

“Recently, our two major power providers announced expected increases to vary from 5.3% to 7.9%. As successful as Steele-Waseca is at reducing costs without reducing service...it is necessary to pass the increased cost on to our members in 2023.”

other than the cost of power, have gone down each of the last three years, and the four-year average shows a reduction just under 4%. We were able to offset some of our last few years increases in cost of power with our operating efficiencies, however the current increase will take our cost of power since 2020 from 65.5% of revenue to 68.5% of revenue.

In review, the projected percentage increase is for the average member system wide. The increase each of you experience will be determined on whether your usage is over or under the average and the effect of the monthly fee.

It is important for our rates to collect as much of the actual costs as is applicable to each class of service. Most of our cost of service is collected in the energy charge, and we try to lessen that with a reasonable customer charge with as much balance as possible.

Steele-Waseca will continue to work hard to provide the best service and realize cost savings whenever possible. We also have an excellent section on our website, swce.coop, entitled, “Rebates and Programs,” that provide many ideas and links about efficiency and conservation.

The rate adjustments are not large ones, and it will take effect on your bill you receive in February. Please feel free to call any of our customer service representatives if you have a question or need further clarification.

#swceTRUST

member connection

Steele-Waseca partners with Voices for Cooperative Power on legislative policies impacting rural energy consumers

Courtesy: Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA)

As a local energy co-op, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric works daily to provide reliable, affordable power to the communities and member-owners we serve.

The cooperative has a long history of coming together to turn on the lights for rural energy consumers. Over the years, we have adapted our business practices to continue providing reliable, affordable energy even though the industry continues to change at a rapid pace.

Steele-Waseca is just one of 50 electric cooperatives that serve rural energy consumers in Minnesota. We have partnered with other Minnesota co-ops through our statewide organization, MREA, and our national organization, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), to ensure we have a voice at the table this upcoming legislative session, and make our cooperative voices heard when it comes to energy policy in Minnesota.

Our member-owners may help us advocate for reliable, affordable energy for all of Minnesota's energy consumers by signing up for Voices for Coop-

erative Power (VCP), a network of electric cooperative member-consumers who are working together to ensure the needs of rural America are reflected in state and national policy decisions.

You can learn more and sign up at <https://voicesforcooperativepower.com/minnesota>.

Through VCP, you will have access to resources designed to help you learn more about your local and national legislators, and about issues impacting rural energy cooperatives both in Minnesota and across the nation.

VCP also provides the tools and information you need to communicate easily and effectively with our state legislators regarding Minnesota's energy policies and legislation.

Together, we can elevate the voice of our members and other rural energy consumers across the state, and keep electricity reliable and affordable for



all.

(Note: VCP is a free service available for electric cooperatives through NRECA. Through the VCP platform, you will also be exposed to policy issues impacting energy cooperatives at a national level. NRECA maintains the service and sets the national priorities for VCP. Joining VCP is an individual decision and completely optional. You will not be enrolled automatically as a member of Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, nor will you be required to contact your legislators by signing up for the service. Those who register can withdraw their registration at any time through VCP.)

#swceCOOPERATION



MAKE YOUR HOME
WARM AND BRIGHT.

Enjoy 30% off all standard LEDs, a brilliant way to save energy and money!

The days are shorter, which means the lights are on longer. But that doesn't mean your energy use has to go up. Make a difference for your home, your energy bill and the environment by making the switch to ENERGY STAR® certified LEDs. They use less energy, last longer and work well outdoors even when temperatures dip. Plus, standard LEDs are 30% off Jan. 3 – Feb. 28, 2023!



ENERGY WISE MN
#swceLIFE+

New year,
new products!

Visit our refreshed online store to browse our full line of sustainable products.

Visit energywisemnstore.com/LED or scan



072-0204-06-01 Print Ad

cookin' connection

Easy Fruit Yogurt Pie

Sandi Jones

Faribault

1/2 c. mashed fruit, fresh or canned
(2) 8 oz. containers of fruit yogurt
3 1/2 c. Cool Whip whipped topping

Pour all of the above ingredients in a graham cracker crust and keep in the refrigerator.

Please use a 3 x 5 card when submitting your recipe. The member whose recipe is published will receive a \$7 energy credit.



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's solar subscribers will see a 14 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during December 2022. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop. #swceINNOVATION

Was your account number in Sparks?

Each month five account numbers are printed in *Sparks* and a total of \$35 in energy credits is divided among however many of those numbers are found. For example, if all numbers are found, a credit of \$7 will be applied to the members' following month's electric bills; or, if only one number is found, that member receives the full \$35 credit. Members finding their numbers who have a load management receiver on their dual fuel, electric water heater, air conditioner, or genset will receive an additional \$7 credit. When you find your number, phone our office no later than the 7th of the month following receipt of the *Sparks*, or the amount will be forfeited.

January issue of Sparks



Numbers found:
Randy/Linda Dubbels
Numbers not found:
Sarah/Michael Hutter
Brad Suchanek
Michal/Sarah Munoz
Bao Xiong



Sparks in brief . . .

• **Want easy energy payments?** Sign up for **EnergyPay Plus**, our automatic payment plan, or **Energy Prepay**, our discounted advance payment plan. Contact our office for details. You may also pay your bill online at www.swce.coop. By entering your Steele-Waseca username and password you can also view a 13-month history of your account.

• **If you have changed or added phone numbers**, please contact SWCE to update your contact information. 33336

• **Need a new water heater?** For information about our Westinghouse Electric Water Heater Program, phone Cindy Butterfield at our office between 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 446-4204 / 800-526-3514.

• **December temps** – The average high temperature for December was 24°F, while the average low was 9°F. This resulted in 1,498.5 Heating Degree Days (HDDs), and 0 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 33°F and average low of 16°F. This resulted in 1,245.5 HDDs and 0 CDDs.

• **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2023, all ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), electric clothes dryers, dehumidifiers, central air conditioners, air and ground source heat pumps, light emitting diode (LED) bulbs purchased (limit 5) are eligible to receive rebates (may not be combined with special promotions). Rebate request forms must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Rebate forms are available at www.swce.coop. For more information or to receive a rebate request form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 446-4204 or 800-526-3514.

• **Steele-Waseca's tree service contractor** – Carr's Tree Service, Inc., is contracted to do SWCE's tree trimming. To report a tree concern, phone:

507-451-7340 / 800-526-3514

STEELE COUNTY TIP LINE

866-878-7964

TO BE USED TO REPORT ANY CRIME OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY ANONYMOUSLY

COVERS ALL OF STEELE COUNTY INCLUDING THE CITIES OF:

OWATONNA ELLENDALE
BLOOMING PRAIRIE MEDFORD

#swceSERVICE

Preventing Home Electrical Fires



Fire departments respond to an average of **46,700** home fires each year caused by electrical failure or malfunction.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):

Over a recent 4-year period...



30%

happened in cold weather months (Nov. – Feb.)



Fires caused an estimated average of: **390 Deaths** and **1,070 Injuries**

1

Wiring and related equipment were involved in the **greatest number of home electrical fires.**

Lighting, a lamp or a bulb was involved in the **second largest number of fires.**



WARNING SIGNS of electrical issues:

Damaged cords and flickering lights

Discolored outlets and switch plates

Frequently tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses

Hire a licensed contractor to ensure that your home's wiring is **installed to code** and functioning properly. Learn more at:

Safe Electricity.org

Source: NFPA's Electrical Fires Report, 2022



Snowmobile Safety

Beware of power poles and the wires that hold them in place

SHARE THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION with family, friends and anyone you know who rides a snowmobile.

SNOWMOBILING underneath power lines can be dangerous. Keep these tips in mind this winter.

- Watch out for power poles and electrical equipment that can be hidden in the snow.
- Slow down, know the area and stay on marked trails.
- Power poles are often anchored with wires extending out from the pole. Avoid snowmobiling directly next to or underneath power lines.
- If you see a downed power line, stay away from it and call 911 to report it. Always assume it is live and can carry currents strong enough to kill.

#swceSERVICE

Great River Energy—Powering what's possible

greatriverenergy.com



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Insulating your electric water heater can reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%, saving you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs.

The Dept. of Energy rates this project as medium difficulty, meaning most homeowners can tackle this project on their own. You can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets for about \$20 at most home improvement stores. Visit energy.gov for project tips and additional considerations.

Source: energy.gov



#swceLIFE+

ad connection

give away

KITTENS to a good home. 390-0506.

FREE ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS, you place & remove your own ad on SWCE's website, swce.coop, these are separate from Sparks & will not appear in Sparks unless mailed, delivered, or emailed to SWCE.

wanted

RURAL PEOPLE SERVED BY THE OWAT. FIRE DEPT. TO ATTEND THE ANN. OWAT. RURAL FIRE ASSOC. MTG 3/13/23, at the Owat. Elks. 451-9614.

UNWANTED BIKES & LAWN MOWERS, \$ paid on delivered. 330-3178.

TRACTOR TIRE CHAINS, 18.4-38. 390-2758.

BARN, GRANARY, &/OR OUTBUILDINGS, I remove to repurpose the lumber; **OLD TIN; BARN SIDING; LUMBER**. 330-0258/Tim.

FORD DIESEL SKID STEER. 330-1849.

GUNS; AMMO; JD MOWERS; TACKLE; ESTATES. 279-0431/Mark.

for sale

7' ARPS SNOWBLOWER, 3 pt, 2 stage, double auger, used last yr but needs some work; **PORTABLE FISH HOUSE**, great starter, \$25. 455-3881.

20' KEWANEE DISC w/folding wings, \$1200; **WHITE 508 PLOW**, 4 btm, \$1200; **(2) 36" ROTATING TABLETOP EVERGREEN TREES**, \$20/each. 304-0903.

FORTUNE CREEK TRL LOTS, the covenant allows for a pole shed, starting at \$75,000. 838-5033/John.

TRANSFERRABLE BUILDING RIGHTS in Rice County, Webster Twp. 612-919-4130 for details.

ALL-NATURAL SOAPS, SALVES & BALMS, nothing artificial, milk soaps, tallow & lard soaps, unscented & scented soaps, www.dandelionnaturals.com, Hayfield. 261-4992.

RENTAL, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$150. 451-7946.

USED ALUMINUM 24'X4' HEWITT NARROW PONTON LIFT, \$500; **USED FLORAL MARSHFIELD COUCH**, \$50/obo. 612-703-9930.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

1998 SPARTAN 16' ROLLER BOAT TRAILER, \$800/obo; **50-GAL. WATER HEATER; BOAT/RV STORAGE FOR RENT**. 475-2322.

BOSS DXT V-PLOW, 9'2" w/wings, \$5400. 334-7177.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Ellendale. 456-1460.

FIREWOOD, mixed hardwoods, well split & dried for over 2 yrs, \$75/truckload. 332-7590.

BEACHFRONT VACATION CONDOS FOR RENT in Fort Myers Beach, South Padre Island & Mexico, visit www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com for details & photos. 612-865-9604/Sandy.

MAYTAG 30" FREE-STANDING ELEC. CONVECTION OVEN, glass cooktop, blk w/stainless steel, self cleaning, \$150. 414-403-3845.

MF 50, 1960s, new rear tires & rims, great cond. 744-5133.

TREK NAVIGATOR 100, 26x175, 21 spd, small men's, \$100; **TREK 7.3 FX**, 24 spd, 700x35c, hybrid, small men's, \$200. 330-3178.

TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL, & STUMP GRINDING, professional climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; **2007 FRONT CHROME BUMPER** for an F-650, like new. 456-1609.

1978 SHELBY GOOSENECK, (2) horse, straight load, sm. living qtrs, water heater, sink, elec. fridge, cowboy shower, \$7500. 456-0076.

HOUSE CLEANING: kitchen, bathrooms, bedrooms, etc. 461-9422.

JD 10-32 SNOWBLWR, ready to go, \$280. 451-9614.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

CALIF. KING BED FR. & SLEEP # MATT., drk brwn cherry wd, base, sheets, bedskrt, gd cond, \$400; **CALIF. KING BED FR. & SLEEP # MATT.**, light oak wd, modular base, sheets, gd con., \$400. 481-2048.

1938 FORD PICKUP, customized/updated, ready for paint, \$27,800. 327-2741.

REM. 721 RIFLE, 30.06, great cond., had it for 30 yrs, \$400; **30.06 AMMO**, 93 rounds, \$50. 528-2780.

GRASS HAY BALES, small square, by Waldorf. 327-3672.

LORENZ-HINIKER 8' SNOWBLOWER w/hy. spout, \$2000/obo; **FROST-FREE CATTLE WATERER**, \$200; **1950 CATERPILLAR D2 BULLDOZER**, runs & drives, needs work, \$3000. 330-3945.

MIXED 4X5 GRASS HAY BALES. 390-0600.

INT 3414 TRACTOR, white & yellow, runs but needs some work, it has a leak, new battery, tires are good, \$3000. 456-7215.

CLIMATE CONTROLLED UNITS FOR RENT, 11'x9' to 16'x10'. 332-4623.

(2) DOWNHILL ROSSIGNOL SKIS. 678-978-7444.

2008 FORD E-250 CARGO VAN, 135,000 mi., \$8000; **GRAIN BIN**, holds 24 ton, \$6000. 402-9389.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) assumes no liability for the content of, or reply to, any item posted. The party posting any advertisement assumes complete liability for the content of, and all replies to, any advertisement and for any claims against SWCE as a result thereof, and agrees to indemnify and hold SWCE harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.

travel

SAVANNAH, JEKYLL ISLAND & BEAUFORT, SC, March 4-12. 14 meals, 8-night lodging, guided tours, visit Parris Island, evening show at famous Savannah Theatre. \$1,599 pp w/2 per room.

SAN ANTONIO, TX, March 18-26. By motor coach, 14 meals, Riverwalk Cruise, LBJ Ranch, 6th Floor Museum in Dealey Plaza, Magnolia Market at the Silos, Alamo, & more! \$1,599 pp w/2 per room.

MONUMENTS OF WASHINGTON, D.C., April 28-May 2. Round trip Delta Airlines from Mpls to D.C., 8 meals, guided tours, tram ride thru Arlington National Cemetery, & more! \$1,699 pp w/2 per room.

Call 4-Seasons at 373-4705 or 373-2473, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, to learn more about their tour information.



TRUST OUR EXPERIENCE. LOVE YOUR VACATION.

Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by **February 6** to ensure being printed in the March Sparks. Please print neatly or type your ad of **20 words or less** on this form. We reserve the right to edit ad copy to allow space for more ads. Ads received after the 6th will be printed in the April issue. 21452

For Sale Wanted Give Away

Phone # _____ Account # _____

Name _____

Clip and mail to: SWCE, PO Box 485, Owatonna MN 55060-0485, deliver to the SWCE office, or email your ad to: sparks@swce.coop.

Five Tips for Hiring an Electrician

A licensed electrician can help with a variety of home projects from lighting upgrades to full renovations. Keep the following tips in mind if you're looking to hire an electrician.



#swceLIFE+

1. Hire a licensed, qualified electrician for the job.

Look for a master electrician to manage the project. Master electricians have the most experience and will often oversee the work of a journey-level electrician or apprentice.

2. Make sure the electrician is insured.

Seasoned electricians know the importance of protecting themselves in case of an accident.

3. Read *all* the reviews.

Hire an electrician that has several positive reviews – not just one or two. Read reviews on different sites, like Nextdoor, Yelp and HomeAdvisor, and consider asking your neighbors for recommendations.

4. Determine your budget. Get two quotes.

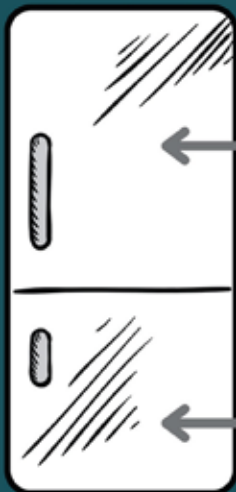
Knowing your budget upfront helps move the process along. Prices can greatly vary, so get multiple quotes (at least two).

5. Talk timeline.

Some electricians accidentally overbook projects. If your job is time-sensitive, convey that early on and discuss a realistic timeline with the electrician.

Keep Food Safe During and After a Power Outage

Refrigerated or frozen foods may not be safe to eat after a power outage. Use these tips to minimize food loss and reduce risk of illness.



Refrigerated food will last four hours. After four hours, place refrigerated foods in a cooler with ice.



Food in a **half-full** freezer will last 24 hours. Food in a **full** freezer will last 48 hours.

Food Safety Tips

1. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
2. Throw out any food with an unusual odor, color or texture.
3. Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator after four hours without power or a cold source (like a cooler with ice).

When in doubt, throw it out!



#swceSERVICE

youth tour connection

Applications being accepted for 2023 Washington, D.C. Youth Tour

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric is sponsoring two eligible students

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric is accepting applications from eligible high school sophomores or juniors for an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the 2023 Youth Tour, June 13-18.

The tour is coordinated through the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) and hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Participating cooperatives sponsor a member student(s) to travel to Washington, D.C., to learn about cooperatives and our government, tour historical sites, and have fun meeting new friends from Minnesota and other delegates from across the nation.

To be eligible, the entrant must meet the following requirements:

1. The entrant is currently a high school sophomore or junior, and their parent(s)/guardian(s) are a Steele-Waseca member. Dependents of Steele-Waseca employees or directors are not eligible to participate.
2. All entries must include: a) the completed application form below; b) answers to both essay questions typed on an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper; c) applicant's school and community information typed on a separate sheet of paper; and d) two letters of recommendation (one from an instructor, counselor or administrator, and the other from a church or community leader).
3. Return entries to: Steele-Waseca

Cooperative Electric, c/o Youth Tour 2023, PO Box 485, Owatonna, MN 55060. Entries must be received in Steele-Waseca's office on or before Friday, Feb. 17. The two Youth Tour recipients will be notified by Friday, March 17. 1088084

Each entry will be evaluated by a panel of judges for:

- completeness
- composition
- neatness
- ability to communicate
- school and community activities

Essay Questions:

1. Why would you like to be Steele-Waseca's delegate to Youth Tour 2023? What do you hope to gain from the experience? Answer in 150 words or less.

2. Write a short essay on what commitment to community means to you. Include how you contribute to your community. Answer in 300 words or less.

Steele-Waseca 2022 Youth Tour delegates Nate Seykora (far left) and Alex Kindseth (far right) pose with a couple fellow delegates; in the background is the Washington Monument.

School and Community Information (use a separate sheet of paper to list the following):

- All school activities – include letters and honors earned, positions held, etc.
- All community activities – include all church, community service and positions held.
- Work experience and any other information.

MREA is requiring that each participating cooperative's delegate(s) report to the Crowne Plaza Airport located at 3 Appletree Square in Bloomington for an orientation session on Tuesday, June 13, presently at 9:30 a.m. An afternoon flight to Washington, D.C., will follow the session.

 #swceLIFE+



Washington, D.C. Youth Tour 2023 — June 13-18

Name _____ Gender _____ Phone _____

Address _____
street city state zip county

Email address _____ Parent(s) or Guardian(s) _____

I am currently a high school _____ sophomore _____ junior at _____

Parent/Guardian consent: I/we hereby give my/our dependent high school student permission to enter the Rural Electric Washington, D.C. Youth Tour 2023 Contest. I/we understand if they're selected, I/we will be responsible for providing their transportation to the Crowne Plaza Airport in Bloomington and from the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport.

Name(s) _____ SWCE account # _____