




the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

January 2025

\$

Capital Credit Refund

Please check this month's billing statement for your 2024 capital credit refund. If you have any questions regarding your refund, please call Customer Service Representative Hlou Yang at Steele-Waseca during regular business hours.

\$



Wishing you a safe & happy holiday season!

inside connections

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calendar of events

January

- | | |
|----|------------------------------|
| 1 | New Year's Day 1017861 |
| | SWCE office is closed |
| 20 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day |
| 24 | National Compliment Day |

Steele-Waseca expands qualifications for awarding \$1,000 scholarships to high school graduates in 2025

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric is providing \$1,000 scholarships to qualified high school seniors graduating in 2025.


One scholarship will be presented to each participating school. Scholarship eligibility required by Steele-Waseca includes:

1. Applicants must currently be high school seniors, who will be continuing their education on a full-time basis ranging from a three-month post-secondary certificate program to a four-year college degree (this is a change from previous years).

2. Applicants must be dependents of a Steele-Waseca member.

Each participating school is responsible for administering any other eligibility requirements, the selection of their school's Steele-Waseca scholarship recipient, and the disbursement of scholarship dollars from Steele-Waseca.

All eligible high school seniors should contact their guidance counselor or scholarship administrator for more information.

In 2024, Steele-Waseca awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 18 high school senior graduates. The co-op's scholarship program has awarded \$232,250 in scholarships since the program was established in 1954. A portion of the funds to support these scholarships come from unclaimed capital credit equity.  #swceLIFE+

Wholesale provider Great River Energy increasing rates in 2025

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's wholesale power provider, Great River Energy (GRE), is budgeting for revenue and expenses of approximately \$1.1 billion in 2025, as it allocates funds to operate the business in addition to making necessary investments in the electric system.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, GRE collects enough revenue to cover its costs as well as a margin to operate the business. At the same time, it makes investments in the best interests of its member-owner cooperatives, including Steele-Waseca, over the long term.

Upcoming plans for 2025 include a buildout of high-voltage transmission lines that will reduce congestion on the grid and open pathways for more renewable sources of energy.

"We are entering a period of capital investment, but the end result will be a stronger grid and more reliable electric service," said Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Michelle Strobel. "These investments are strategic and will result in lower

costs over the long term."

GRE's margin will increase in 2025 to strengthen financial metrics in order to secure favorable funding terms and interest rates. Like all cooperatives, all of Great River Energy's collected margins are returned to the membership over time as patronage.

Additionally, Great River Energy's average 2025 wholesale rate is projected to increase by an average of 5.7% from the 2024 budgeted rate.

"Our rates are competitive when compared to our neighboring utilities and remain well below the weighted regional cost of wholesale electricity," said Strobel.

 #swceCOOPERATION



**GREAT
RIVER
ENERGY™**

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Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric
 2411 W Bridge Street, PO Box 485
 Owatonna MN 55060-0485

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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



Electricity is essential for nearly every aspect of daily life—so essential that we rarely think about how it's produced and delivered to our homes.

You might be surprised to learn that behind the scenes, a network of experts is working daily (and even by the minute) to anticipate how much electricity you need before you even use it.

We're all connected to the electric grid, so ensuring the right amount of electricity for all involves a complex process of forecasting energy demand, planning for capacity and securing enough supply to meet Americans' needs.

Powerful sources

First, electricity must be generated at a power plant using either traditional sources, such as coal, natural gas or nuclear energy, or from renewable sources, such as solar, wind or hydropower.

At Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, we work closely with Great River Energy, our wholesale power provider, to secure enough electricity for our members from residential to commercial and industrial, using a diverse mix of energy sources to generate the power we distribute to your home, farm or business. By maintaining a diverse energy mix, Steele-Waseca has options to ensure reliable power at a competitive cost.

On a larger scale, across the country, electricity supply and demand are managed through a market that includes long-term planning agreements, where electricity is bought and sold just like other common goods and services. Because Steele-Waseca works with our wholesale power provider, which is also a cooperative, we are able to pool resources and expertise to deliver affordable power to our service area.

Electricity supply changes throughout the day because demand fluctuates based on consumers' needs. For example, Steele-Waseca knows we need to ensure more electricity in the mornings when you're starting your day, and in the

evenings when you're cooking dinner, running appliances and watching TV. Demand also increases when weather patterns change, such as extremely warm or cold temperatures.

Managing supply and demand across the grid

Across the country, other electric utilities are managing the same task of balancing supply and demand, which is why we have a larger network of key players in place to ensure enough power is delivered across the grid.

In most cases, the amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to specific areas are coordinated and monitored by regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs). In other areas, individual electric utilities perform these tasks.

RTOs, ISOs and electric utilities act as air traffic controllers for the electric grid. They forecast when you, your neighbors and communities across a large region will need more power. These organizations take measured steps to ensure there's enough supply to meet demand.

Looking ahead

As the energy sector undergoes rapid change, it's important for all consumers to understand the basics of electricity supply and demand. 1087427

Electricity use in the U.S. is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, with the demand for electricity expected to at least double by 2050. At the same time, present energy policies are pushing the early retirement of always-available generation sources, which will undoubtedly compromise reliable electricity.

Steele-Waseca remains committed to providing safe, affordable, and reliable energy to the members we serve. Managing the balancing act of electricity supply and demand is a complex job, which is why we have a network in place to direct the electricity we need and keep the electric grid balanced.



#swceSERVICE

Data center site in Faribault fetches \$4.5 million

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric to experience future load growth as a result

A farm site marketed by Faribault officials for new development is poised to be the future home of a 500,000-square-foot data center in the city.

Archer Datacenters SPE2 LLC of Chappaqua, New York, paid \$4.5 million for the 87.6-acre property at 15339 Acorn Trail, which is just south of 150th Street West and east of Interstate 35, according to a certificate of real estate value made public Friday, Nov. 29. The seller is Faribault-based PK LaRochelle LLP.

Jordan Milman, chairman and CEO

of Archer Datacenters, LLC, said the conceptual plan for the site, subject to change, is for a "footprint of up to 500,000 square feet across multiple potential data center buildings, and up to 120 MW of power." 32033

"After looking at numerous sites across the greater Twin Cities region, the Faribault site proved ideal for a number of reasons, perhaps most notably the reception of...the folks at the city, as well as the collaborative approach to power procurement that we are undertaking with Steele-Waseca Co-op Electric and Great River Ener-

gy," Milman said in an email.

"Next steps for us are to continue our design, entitlement, and permitting processes. We are very excited to become a part of the robust business climate and community of Faribault."

Archer Datacenters declined to comment on the project timeline or employment projections.

(Courtesy: Finance & Commerce)

#swceGROWTH

It's a fact, whether we like it or not, decisions made in Washington, D.C. and at our state capitals impact us from how much we pay for electricity to what benefits we provide our employees. That's why it is so important to elect and re-elect people who understand the concerns of America's electric cooperatives.

About America's Electric Cooperatives PAC

America's Electric Cooperatives PAC is the federal political action committee (PAC) of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and is backed by nearly 35,000 eligible employees, directors and consumer-members across the country. It is truly a grassroots movement powered by thousands of contributors giving an average of \$65.00 per year.



Please Join America's Electric Cooperatives PAC today!

Your PAC contribution builds our collective strength, which is grounded in the relationships between local electric co-ops, the communities they serve and the candidates seeking to represent them. Join the thousands of co-op leaders who value political engagement and the role it plays in our collective success. For just a small amount a month, you can be sure your voice is heard in Washington, D.C. Simply scan the QR code, visit www.cooperative.com/pacdonation or fill out the form on the back of this brochure.

Who Can Join America's Electric Cooperatives PAC?

Eligible: Directors; salaried employees with policymaking, managerial, professional or supervisory responsibilities; and any consumer-member of an electric co-op that belongs to NRECA.

Ineligible: Non-exempt hourly employees; salaried foreman with direct supervision over hourly employees; outside contractors, such as consultants or outside attorneys; consumers of a public power district; and general public.

*If any of these are consumer members of an electric co-op that belongs to NRECA, they can join America's Electric Cooperatives PAC.

Donate Today!



www.cooperative.com/pacdonation

Contributions to the NRECA America's Electric Cooperatives PAC are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Contributions to America's Electric Cooperatives PAC are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. You have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Federal law prohibits contributions from foreign nationals who lack permanent resident status. Any contribution guidelines presented are merely suggestions. You are free to contribute more or less than the suggested amounts, or not at all. NRECA will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount contributed or a decision not to contribute. For more information on the PAC, please contact your local cooperative or NRECA PAC team at 703-907-5799 or by email at pacteam@nreca.coop.

*Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200.

NOTE: Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric members who received a \$50 Energy Star® gift certificate for their attendance at the co-op's 2024 annual meeting, June 4, are reminded the certificates expire Dec. 31, 2024. This is consistent with the expiration date of certificates issued in recent years. Thank you for your cooperation:)



cookin' connection

Fruit Cocktail Cake

Lavonne Krause

Morristown

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 1/2 c. sugar | 2 eggs |
| 2 c. flour | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 2 tsp. soda | 16 oz. can fruit cocktail |
| 1/2 c. brown sugar | 1/2 c. nuts |

Beat eggs, add fruit cocktail, vanilla, stir in sugar, flour, soda. Pour in (greased or sprayed) cake pan. Sprinkle topping of brown sugar and nuts over top. Bake at 350° for 25 to 30 minutes.

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 21 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during November 2024. 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.

December issue of Sparks



Numbers found:

Terry Wrede
Aaron Qualey

Numbers not found:

Mark Longenecker
James/Rebecca Craig
Chris Graupmann



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. 24570

- **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.

- **November temps** – The average high temperature for November was 43° F, while the average low was 30° F. This resulted in 841.5 Heating Degree Days (HDDs) and 0 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 47° F and average low of 25° F, which resulted in 868 HDDs and 0 CDDs.

- **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – 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 swce.coop. For more information or to receive a rebate request form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 800-526-3514.

- **SWCE'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

LIVESTOCK OWNERS

If you have questions or concerns regarding stray voltage in your livestock confinement building(s), or are planning an addition, or constructing a new one, call Steele-Waseca at 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514. Steele-Waseca will work with you and your electrician to eliminate potential stray voltage problems. You may also visit: www.minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com.



Be Safe

Stay clear of downed power lines

NEVER TOUCH A DOWNED POWER LINE.

Always assume it is energized and call 911 immediately.

POWERFUL STORMS can damage power lines. If you see a downed power line:

- Stay at least 50 feet away from it and assume it is energized. The ground may also be energized making the entire area extremely dangerous.
- Never touch anything that is touching a downed power line. It is as dangerous as the line itself.
- If a power line falls on your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside your vehicle until help arrives.

Great River Energy—Powering what's possible

Is my off peak/dual fuel being controlled today?

Visit Great River Energy's website at www.greatriverenergy.com and click on "Load Management"

Making a Winter Driving Survival Kit

Use an empty three-pound coffee can or any similar container with a plastic cover to store the following items:

- Small candles and matches
- Small, sharp knife and plastic spoons
- Red bandanna or cloth
- Pencil and paper
- Large plastic garbage bag
- Safety pins
- Whistle
- Snacks
- Cell phone adapter to plug into lighter
- Plastic flashlight and spare batteries

Reverse batteries in the flashlight to avoid accidental switching and burnout. Warm batteries before using them. Store safety items in the passenger compartment when severe winter weather threatens in case the trunk is jammed or frozen shut. Choose small packages of food that you can eat hot or cold.

Suggested food items:

- Raisins in small packets
- Semi-sweet chocolate in pieces for sharing
- Miniature candy bars
- Chewing gum
- Wrapped hard candies
- Food bars
- Canned soup, meat and poultry

Store bulky and heavy items in an accessible place:

- 30-foot cord to use as homing line when you must exit the vehicle
- Booster cables
- Basic tools
- Sand, cat litter or other grit in a plastic milk carton
- Shovel
- Tow cables or chain
- Sleeping bag or blankets
- Road flares and reflectors
- Snowmobile suit and heavy boots

Emergency Phone Calls

If you become stranded in any part of Minnesota, and you have a cell phone, call 911 to summon help. In other states, you may be able to dial 911 or 0 to reach an operator. When you talk with authorities:

- Provide information on your location, condition of all persons in the vehicle and the problem you are experiencing
- Follow instructions; you may be told to stay where you are and wait for rescuers
- Do not hang up until you know who you have spoken with and what will happen next
- If you must leave your vehicle, write down your name, address, phone number and destination. Place the piece of paper inside the front windshield for someone to see



Minnesota Department of Public Safety
Homeland Security and Emergency Management

 #swceTRUST

ad connection

give away

(3) CALICO CATS; GRAIN BIN, 7000 bu. 456-9409.

GARAGE CATS/KITTENS, friendly, used to being around dogs, litter-box trained. 649-4055.

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

TDR TRANSFER DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS IN ERIN & FOREST TOWNSHIPS, CPI vs CER calculation got you losing them? Sell & transfer off before deadline. 612-756-0271/Dan.

CROSSBRED DOG, pup/young, med. size, reas. priced. 456-4254.

JUNKERS & REPAIRABLES, top \$ paid for used cars, trucks, some farm equip. 332-2300.

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

FORD SKID STEER, diesel. 330-1849.

for sale

1994 IH STRAIGHT TRUCK W/REFRIGERATED JOHNSON 18' BOX, \$6300. 334-7177.

(3) **BOXES REM 17 FIREBALL AMMO 60 RDS 20 GR ACCUTIP**, \$85; **20 RDS HORNADY 300 RSAUM 178 GR ELD-X**, \$45. 461-1191.

(2) **11L X 16 IMPLEMENT TIRES**, 8-hole rims, \$100/pr; **MIRACLE FOUNT FROST-FREE CATTLE WATERER**, \$200; **JD 3-PIECE FRONT WEIGHT SET**, fits 4020, \$300. 330-3945.

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

10-HP TECUMSEH ENGINE 5000-WATT GENERATOR, runs gd, well taken care of, \$200. 456-0225.

EGGS. 451-3678/Owat.

MIXED HARDWOODS FIREWOOD, Nfld area, \$350/cord. 651-357-5092/Paul.

HUNTING BLINDS, weather/rodent proof, insulated & much more. 330-2452.

Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by **January 6** to ensure being printed in the February 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 March issue.

☐ For Sale

☐ Wanted

☐ Give Away

Phone # _____ Account # _____

Name _____

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

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

MASTER MECHANIC 15-GAL. AIR COMPRESSOR, 1.5 HP, 200 PSI, \$70. 686-0417.

A-C B, runs gd, gd rubber. 383-7315.

MR. HEATER; BOSE SUBWOOFER; PUB TABLE W/(4) CHAIRS; 18-LB BOAT ANCHOR; SANDER; WATT POTTERY; BOOKSHELF SPEAKERS; RADIAL ARM SAW. 363-1566.

RENTAL, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$175. 451-7946.

FORD 801 SELECT-O-SPEED TRACTOR, gas, gd body project? Offers negotiable. 456-0766/Mdfd.

8-HP MTD SNOWBLOWER, elec. start. 451-4613.

ALFALFA, 19 sm. squares, \$6/bale; **GRASS/CLOVER MIX**, 100 sm. squares, \$4/bale (everything baled dry). 456-9546/text.

55-GAL. PLASTIC & STEEL BARRELS w/covers, \$5-\$15; **220-GAL. POLY TANK w/valve in forklift frame**, \$75. 421-2521.

BUTCHER BLOCK TOP DINING ROOM TABLE, 42" round, 1 leaf incl.; **(4) ROLLER OFFICE CHAIRS**, height adjustable; **ELEC. LIFT CHAIR**. 213-0443.

USED MOTORS & TRANSMISSIONS FOR CARS, used auto parts, 30-day warranty on engines & trans. 332-2300.

(34) SEWING PATTERNS: girls, ladies, misc., all for \$6. 676-7348.

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

REAR ROUND BALE FORK, \$200; **TREK 800 SPORT**, 18 spd, men's MTB, 26x175, \$50; **TREK 700 MULTITRACK**, 21 spd, women's, 700x35c, \$100. 330-3178.

HEAD DOWNHILL SKIS; HAY, round bales; **JD FRONT WTS; FARMALL A TRACTOR; OLD POTATO PLANTER; DIGGER; HORSE CULTIVATOR**. 330-3750.

'02 **POLARIS 550 SNOWMOBILE**, fan-cooled twin, 2442 mi., looks new, been a few yrs since used, ran grt, \$2500; '80 **ALUMACRAFT**, 14', 9.5-HP Evinrude Sport Twin, runs, for parts 2 seats, \$800. 676-2802.

EXT. LADDERS: Werner Industrial D1536-2, exc. cond., \$475; Keller Commercial 3532, gd cond., \$200. 403-9469.

GRASS HAY, sm. sq. bales by Waldorf. 327-3672.

HAY, 172 bales, 4x5, alfalfa/grass/grass mix, Owat.; **HOUSE FOR RENT**, nice, 5 mi. east of Owatonna. 213-8670.

HVY DUTY ALUM. RAMP, 4' wide by 10' long, \$350. 491-4565.

BOAT/RV STORAGE FOR RENT. 475-2322.

LIVING ROOM FURNITURE: leather reclining sofa, (2) coordinating fabric pressback recliners (earth tones), (2) end tables, coffee table, \$599. 330-0326.

AUSTRALIAN SHEP. PUPS, purebred, registered, vaccinated, dewormed, farm family raised, parents on site, ready to go, exc. family, companion, working dogs. 456-3419.

BEHLEN 700 DRYER, 3 ph., propane, \$1500; **GSI HOLDING BIN**, 3000 bu., \$2000; **GSI 30' BIN**, 6-ring wide, 8" unload full floor, 18" fan, \$7000. 456-7351.

4 X 5 ROUND BALES NET. 676-6094.

2012 FORD FUSION CAR, AWD, 92,000 mi., some rust, \$5000/firm. 339-1209.

FLOOR MATS for '14 RAV4, new, \$30; **FRONT WEATHER TECH FLOOR MATS** for '20 Honda Pilot, \$50; **(4) 9.5" X 14" 6-HOLE WAGON RIMS**, \$50; **9.5" X 15" 6-HOLE WAGON RIM**, \$15. 456-8893.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

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

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

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE, Feb. 6-18, 2025. Round trip Delta airfare from Mpls to Ft. Lauderdale, 10-day cruise on the Enchanted Princess, 6 ports of call & more! \$4,399 pp w/2 per room.

CHANHASSEN DINNER THEATRE, Feb. 12, '25. Fun-filled musical, "Grease." Meet in Albert Lea, depart at 8:45 a.m., price includes performance, lunch, dessert, and transportation. \$139 pp.

IRELAND, May 9-18, '25. Round trip Delta flights, 14 meals, 8 nights accommodations incl. 1 night in Lough Eske Castle; Ring of Kerry, Cliffs of Moher, Titanic Belfast & more! \$5,299 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.



POWER UP AND SAVE

Save 25% on advanced power strips at EnergyWiseMNstore.com/APS or scan the QR code.



Offer valid until Dec. 31, 2024. While supplies last. Limit two power strips per customer. Discount applied at checkout. Customer assumes responsibility for all sales tax.

ENERGY WISE  MN

Below is the PAC form referenced on Page 3

Sign Me Up Today!

Return this form to your PAC coordinator for payroll deduction or a one-time contribution.

☐ Payroll Deduction ☐ One-Time Contribution

- ☐ Regular: \$2.08/Month (\$25/year)
- ☐ Ambassador Club: \$4.17/Month (\$50/year)
- ☐ Century Club: \$8.33/Month (\$100/year)
- ☐ Vice President's Club: \$20.83/Month (\$250/year)*
- ☐ President's Club: \$41.66/Month (\$500/year)*
- ☐ Leadership Circle: \$83.32/Month (\$1,000/year)*
- ☐ Other: \$ _____



Payment by Check

Send checks to:
America's Electric Cooperatives PAC
PO Box 718778
Philadelphia, PA 19171

Payment by Credit Card

Pay online:
cooperative.com/pacdonation

I affirm that my contribution has been made with personal funds.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
COOPERATIVE: _____
EMAIL: _____
SIGNATURE: _____
*Federal law requires the following information for contributions exceeding \$200.
EMPLOYER: _____
OCCUPATION: _____



America's Electric
Cooperatives PAC

Amplifying Your Voice
in Washington



www.cooperative.com/pacdonation

youth tour connection

2025 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. scheduled June 16-21

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric seeking applicants; will sponsor two eligible students

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric is accepting applications from eligible high school sophomores or juniors for an all-expense paid trip, valued at nearly \$4,000, to Washington, D.C., for the 2025 Youth Tour, June 16-21.

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., 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 digitally videoed that also highlights the applicant's school and community information on the video at least two minutes in length and not to exceed three minutes; c) two letters of recommendation (one from an instructor, counselor or administrator, and the other from a church or community leader).

3. Videos may be emailed to Member Services Supervisor Randy Sobrack at rsobrack@swce.coop. Mail the application form and letters of recommendation to: Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, c/o Youth Tour 2025, PO Box 485, Owatonna, MN 55060. Entries must be received in Steele-Waseca's office on or before Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025. The two Youth Tour recipients will be notified by Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

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

- The responses to the questions and activity involvement in 2-3 minutes.
- Personality and communication exhibited in the video. 1066433
- Quality of the production.

Essay Questions:

1. Why would you like to be Steele-Waseca's delegate for the 2025 Youth Tour? What do you hope to gain from the experience?
2. What does commitment to community mean to you? Share how you contribute to your community.



School and Community Information

- Highlight your school activities – note letters and honors earned, positions held, etc.
- Reflect on your community activities – include church, community service and positions held.
- Share details regarding any work experience and other information that makes you the person you are.

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 Monday, June 16, presently at 9:30 a.m. An afternoon flight to Washington, D.C., will follow the session. ^{SWC}

#swceLIFE+



Washington, D.C. Youth Tour 2025 — June 16-21

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 2025 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 # _____