

Current Comments

FEBRUARY 2022
MEMBER NEWSLETTER



2019 WYT delegates participate in a wreath laying ceremony at the Grave of the Unknown Soldier.

IMPORTANT DATES

Valentine's Day: Feb. 14

President's Day: Feb. 21
SRE office will be open.

Washington Youth Tour deadline: Feb. 25

Southern Rivers Energy Trust Scholarship deadline: Mar. 1

SRE Trust Board meeting:
Mar. 9

ORU applications are due Feb. 23 to be considered.



OUTAGE HOTLINE:
1-866-244-4890



APPLY FOR THE WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

The Washington Youth Tour (WYT) has been bringing together a unique group of highly talented, ambitious young people from across the country to experience our nation's capital and to learn about leadership and public service. Students walk away from the trip empowered to be better citizens and leaders in their community.

"Georgia's 41 electric membership cooperatives, including Southern Rivers Energy, are dedicated to developing our state's youth. The Youth Tour is an excellent program and we encourage local students to apply to participate in this all-expenses-paid program in 2022," says SRE's WYT coordinator, Kathryn Green.

The Washington Youth Tour (WYT) is sponsored nationally by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and statewide by the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation. High school students from across the nation attend the tour for an incredible week in the nation's Capitol to develop their leadership and team building skills further as well networking with other civic-minded students.

After studying provided materials, candidates can choose to write an essay or submit a video covering information about the history of rural electrification, Southern Rivers Energy and U.S. government. The highest scoring students are invited to participate in the interview process. Two students will win a trip to Washington D.C., June 17-23.

To be eligible, students must be 16 or older by June 1 and attend public or private

school located in Bibb, Coweta, Crawford, Lamar, Meriwether, Monroe, Pike, Spalding and Upson counties.

Applications for the 2022 Washington Youth Tour are available at southernriversenergy.com. All applications must be submitted by Feb. 25. Questions? Contact Kathryn Green at 770-358-5772 or kathryn@srivers.net.



Groups of 2019 YT delegates pose at Mount Vernon and Lincoln Memorial.



Why is my electric bill SO HIGH?

TROUBLESHOOTING A HIGH ENERGY BILL

If your electric bill suddenly spikes, there is usually a direct cause. Here are a few ways to determine the culprit.

⚡ REASON #1: EXTREME WEATHER

Heating accounts for more than 55% of the average energy bill, and unfortunately temperatures can change drastically from one day to the next. If your house has electric heat, you'll see a big spike on your electricity bill in the middle of winter when you use a lot of power. If you have a heat pump and use it a lot, you may run it somewhere between 10 and 15 hours a day. If your electricity costs 10 cents an hour, that could cost you \$15 to \$22 a day. The same applies to homes with central air conditioning in the middle of summer.

⚡ REASON #2: LONGER BILLING CYCLE

Occasionally, your bill may be higher if there were more days than average in the billing cycle. Refer to the "Billing Period" on your bill for the length of your billing cycle.

⚡ REASON #3: UNPAID BALANCES

Your bill may be higher if there was a balance due from a previous month.

⚡ REASON #4: A FULL HOUSE

During times of higher occupancy and activity such as working from home, weekends, holidays and virtual learning school days, your energy usage can be higher than normal.

⚡ REASON #5: FAULTY APPLIANCES

A faulty appliance, such as a leaky water heater or well pump, can lead to a surprisingly high bill. Contact a licensed contractor to perform seasonal checkups on your HVAC and other large appliances to avoid system failure and higher-than-normal bills.

TIPS TO REDUCE YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

If it turns out that there is nothing wrong with your home appliances and systems, that is good news. You're spared the worry and cost of repairs and can still reduce your energy costs. Here are a few ways to get started:

Use a programmable thermostat.



Extra-insulate your home and body.



Lower the temperature on the water heater.



Replace your air filter.



Reduce heat waste by checking doors and windows for leaks.



Stay Ahead of Winter Weather

Weather is unpredictable. Winter ice storms, a tornado or a downpour after weeks of drought can disrupt the flow of energy powering our homes, schools, and businesses. If power lines go down because of a winter storm, you may be in for an extended power outage as line crews battle the elements to find problem areas and restore service as quickly and safely as possible. Follow these tips to stay safe during a power outage:

Before the storm hits:

- If your water is pumped electrically, fill your bathtub and spare containers with water in case power goes off.
- Turn your refrigerator to its coldest setting. If the power goes out, this will keep foods fresh longer. If your freezer is relatively empty, fill plastic soda bottles or other plastic containers with water and put them in the freezer. During an extended outage, transfer some of the containers to the refrigerator.
- If you or a family member depends on life support, inform your co-op before a power outage happens.

If there is an outage:

- Report outages and downed wires to Southern Rivers Energy.
- Treat all downed lines as dangerous. Always assume fallen power lines

are energized and stay far, far away from lines and any nearby objects they may be touching. Never attempt to move power lines. Never touch a person or object that is in contact with a downed line; call 911.

- Unplug everything. As electricity is restored, it may create power surges that can destroy electronics. Leave one light switched on so you know when power has returned.
- Don't use candles. Flashlights produce more light and won't burn your house down.
- Keep the fridge closed. The less you open fridge and freezer doors, the longer your food will stay cold. Use an appliance thermometer to check the temperature. (The refrigerator will keep food properly cold for four hours if unopened. A full freezer will hold temperatures for 48 hours; 24 hours if is half full.)
- **Warning:** If you need to use a generator to energize your refrigerator or other necessary electric device, be sure to turn the breaker off at your house so you don't feed electricity back on the line, unintentionally putting linemen at risk and causing a cascading outage once power is restored.

How to prepare a 72-hour disaster kit:
A severe storm can leave you without

heat, running water or a way to cook food. It's a good idea to have an emergency supply in case of an emergency kit ready. A basic emergency supply kit could include the following items:

- Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio.
- Water: 1 gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation.
- Non-perishable, ready-to-eat, food.
- Manual can opener.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First aid kit/prescription medications.
- Tools: wrench, pliers, hammer and screwdriver to turn off utilities.
- Cellphone with car charger, battery pack or solar charger.
- Sleeping bags or warm blankets
- Complete change of clothes for each person.
- Cash and credit cards.
- Copies of important documents (insurance policies, identification and bank account records) in a water proof, portable container.
- Paper and pencil.
- Books, games, cards or puzzles for entertainment.
- Moist towelettes and garbage bags.
- Toothbrush, toothpaste and soap.
- Pet food and extra water for your pet.

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Thank you.

VETERANS DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

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8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Drive-in window available

Closed Saturdays,
Sundays and holidays

*Southern Rivers Energy is an equal
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SAUSAGE CHEESE BALLS WITH PEPPER JELLY GLAZE

RECIPE COURTESY OF GEORGIA GROWN, AND CARROLL'S
SAUSAGE AND COUNTRY STORE, ASHBURN AND SYLVESTER

INGREDIENTS

- 1 package Carroll's Sausage Cheese Ball Homemade Baking Mix (or substitute 1-1/4 cup whole-wheat all-purpose baking mix)
- 1 pound Carroll's pan sausage (or breakfast sausage of choice)
- 2 cups freshly grated sharp cheddar cheese or old-fashioned hoop cheese
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped scallion, optional
- 1/4 cup hot pepper jelly, for glazing, plus more for serving

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a large bowl, combine the contents of the Homemade Baking Mix (or all-purpose baking mix) with 1 pound of Carroll's pan sausage (or breakfast sausage of choice). Combine well, using your hands if necessary.

Once the dry ingredients are absorbed into the sausage, mix in the cheese until incorporated. Form mixture into walnut-sized balls. Place the sausage balls on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Bake for 15-18 minutes, or until golden brown and sausage is cooked through.

In the microwave, heat pepper jelly for about 30 seconds. With a pastry brush, coat the sausage balls with the pepper jelly glaze. Serve extra pepper jelly on the side for dipping. Yields approximately 30-35 sausage balls.

For recipes from farms and producers across our state, visit georgiagrown.com.



GEORGIA GROWN

Southern Rivers Energy Trust Scholarship | \$3,000

This local scholarship opportunity is sponsored by Southern Rivers Energy and the Southern Rivers Energy Trust Inc. Applicants will be judged blindly by a panel of educators on the quality of their essays, along with grade-point average and community and school involvement. Five scholarships worth \$3,000 each will be awarded in 2021.

Criteria:

- Student's primary residence is within one of the following counties served by SRE: Bibb, Coweta, Crawford, Lamar, Pike, Meriwether, Monroe, Spalding and Upson.
- Student is a high school senior (public, private or home-school) or is currently enrolled in an accredited college or technical school. Not intended for graduate school.

What to submit:

- ONE essay that addresses all four of the core values Touchstone Energy Cooperatives such as Southern Rivers Energy adhere to: Commitment to Community, Accountability, Innovation and Integrity. The essay should be 1,500 words or less, typed and double-spaced. Do

NOT reveal your name, place of residence, school, etc. In the answers, as such references will disqualify your application.

- Letter of recommendation
- School transcript
- Letter of acceptance
- School photo or headshot from shoulders up with a solid background.

All applications must be postmarked or hand-delivered by March 1, 2022. Applications may be delivered to Southern Rivers Energy or mailed to Southern Rivers Energy Trust Scholarship, PO Box 40, Barnesville, GA 30204.

The scholarship can be applied to academic expenses at any accredited two- or four-year university, college or vocational-technical institute in or outside of the state of Georgia.

Winners for the Southern Rivers Energy Trust Scholarship will be announced in April.

For more information, contact Kathryn Green, at 770-358-1383 ext. 348, or kathryn@srivers.net.