



## Co-op Kids Energize “Bring Your Child to Work Day”

Oakdale Electric Cooperative was bustling with youthful energy and enthusiasm while celebrating the first annual “Bring Your Child to Work Day” on Tuesday, June 24. Deana Protz, communications & public relations specialist, hosted the program for 13 of the cooperative’s employees’ children and grandchildren.

General Manager Bruce Ardelt kicked off the day by welcoming the group to Oakdale Electric Cooperative. He acknowledged the time their family members spend away from home working and expressed gratitude for their commitment, loyalty, and hard work. With a flip of the switch, Ardelt turned the lights off and explained without their parents’ dedicated service, our members would not have power.

There was no down time for this crew, as Protz had a full agenda planned, keeping the kids busy with one activity after another. Lineman gave bucket rides to teach the youth what it’s like to work high off the ground for hours at a time. Being afraid of heights is not an option for someone choosing electrical distribution for a career, and this activity gave kids firsthand experience.

Next up was a team-building activity, followed by a building tour and a meet-and-greet with job duty explanations for the office employees. The kids all enjoyed scoping out their parents’ offices, and they took turns sitting behind desks, including the general manager’s!

Energy levels ran high when the group tackled a scavenger hunt throughout the building. The kids were split into two teams and challenged to correctly answer

13 rhyming puzzles, based on the information given during the tour, which led to a prize.

“It was evident they paid close attention, and learned a lot about the cooperative and electricity,” said Protz. “It was such fun to see their faces light up when a clue was figured out! Good thing I wore my running shoes because I had to hustle to keep up!”

Do you know the answers to these two puzzles? “*Building a new business or home? See these friendly folks, just don’t ask for a loan!*” or “*The boss’s lair.*”

*Need we say more? You’ll find your treat there!*” (Answers: The engineering office and the general manager’s office).

After a quick refuel with juice boxes, Scott Brookman, engineering superintendent, shared the hot line safety

demonstration. He discussed making smart and safe electrical choices when both inside and outside, and he demonstrated the effects of touching a power line by using a plastic squirrel, kite, and hot dog.

Since it’s summertime, the day couldn’t be all work and no play, so Protz squeezed in some fun, wacky, and wild activities as well. They included a craft, frosting light bulb cupcakes, electricity video, picnic lunch, and field games.

Laney Champlin, age 7, told her dad later that night, “It was just *awesome!*” And Matthew O’Dell, age 13, asked his mom, “When’s the next day planned?” With the kids’ stamp of approval, we take that as a job well done!—Deana Protz, Communications and Public Relations Specialist ■

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“It was just *awesome!*”

—Laney Champlin, 7

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*Clockwise, starting left: Oakdale Electric Cooperative employees' children participate in a team-building exercise; Lineman Dane Pasch and his daughter Amaya; children have fun with a game of egg toss; Laney Champlin catches Cheetos on her shaving cream-topped head. Opposite page: Scott Brookman presents the hot line safety demo.*



## Can You Help Us Find These People?

Please check the following list of names. If your name appears on this list, contact our office. Oakdale Electric Cooperative would like to return capital credits to those who earned them; otherwise, unclaimed capital credits will be assigned to the Federated Youth Foundation. These funds are then used in the cooperative's scholarship and education programs. The following individuals have not claimed their capital credits. Please contact our office either in person, by mail, or by phoning 608-372-4131 or sending an email to sbloom@oakdalerec.com.

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 BRYANT, SUSAN H  
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 CRAWFORD, ANTHONY R  
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### Summer Employees

Summer is an especially busy time of the year at Oakdale Electric Cooperative, so three new employees were hired for these busy months. Each has obtained his electrical line distribution degree and will be putting his knowledge and skills to work assisting the crews and maintaining the building grounds. From left to right: Mike Linehan, Quinten Reuterskiold, and Dalton Linzmeier.

*Mark Your Calendars!*

Oakdale Electric Cooperative's **Member Appreciation Days** will be held **Saturday, October 4**

*Watch next month for more information!*

## HURRY, SHUTTERBUGS!



**Time is running out for our photo contest!**

**Don't forget about our photo contest as you enjoy the outdoors this summer!**

Winning photos will be featured in Oakdale Electric Cooperative's 2015 calendar. Contest rules, entry forms, and photo release forms available at [www.oakdalerec.com](http://www.oakdalerec.com).

**Photos accepted from Feb. 1-Aug. 15, 2014**

Questions? Call 372-4131 or email [dprotz@oakdalerec.com](mailto:dprotz@oakdalerec.com).

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**Oakdale Electric Cooperative**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

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Deana Protz, Editor

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