

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is Committed to Youth Members

I hear a lot of my friends' parents complaining about their electric bill. But my parents and I have reason to celebrate when we talk about our electric cooperative—because I won an Oakdale Electric

Cooperative scholarship last year.

My co-op cares about its communities and local youth—that's why my co-op matters to me.

I heard about Oakdale Electric Co-op's scholarships from my guidance counselor, and I thought I'd give it a shot. In order to qualify, I had to attend the Youth Leadership

Congress at UW–River Falls in the summer, and following the three-day leadership program, I submitted an essay on how “*Cooperatives Build a Better World*”. A couple of months later, I was surprised when I got a letter in the mail notifying me of my scholarship win!

I'm currently attending Viterbo University, and like most students, scholarships are really important to me. I'm so grateful to Oakdale Electric Cooperative for supporting higher education and investing in my future. It's also a nice feeling that my hard work all through school has been rewarded.

Most people think their electric company just charges them for electricity—it's nice to know Oakdale Electric Cooperative is more than that. My co-op's commitment to its members matters to me.

*Anne Peterson
Tomah High School Alumni*



Would you like to learn how to apply for a scholarship, just like Anne? Oakdale Electric Cooperative has three different scholarship opportunities available to students pursuing post-secondary educations. Scholarships are funded directly through the Federated Youth Foundation by unclaimed capital credits. A volunteer, member-appointed scholarship committee will review and select scholarship recipients.

#1: Youth Scholarship

Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) awards \$1,000 scholarships to students at the 12 high schools in our service territory annually. Each high school is allotted up to three scholarships per school year.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Student must be a son or daughter (or under legal guardianship) of an active member of OEC residing in the same household.
- Student must be entering his/her senior year of high school in the fall 2015 at one of our 12 area high schools: Brookwood, Mauston, Necedah, Nekoosa, New Lisbon, Pittsville, Reedsburg Area, Royall, Sparta, Tomah, Wisconsin Dells, and Wonewoc.
- Student must attend the Youth Leadership Congress at the UW–River Falls campus held July 15–17, 2015.
- Following the Youth Leadership Congress, the student must write an essay on the same topic chosen by WECA for its scholarship essay contest.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS:

Oakdale Electric Cooperative will sponsor up to six students per high school to attend the 2015 YLC at UW–River Falls, July 15–17. Registration materials are available at each respective high school guidance office beginning in April. The high school is responsible for selecting its student representatives.

DEADLINE:

The essay will be available following Youth Leadership Congress, and must be postmarked by **August 28, 2015**.

#2: At-Large/Non-Traditional Scholarship

A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior not enrolled in one of the 12 participating public high schools in our service area (at-large), *OR* an individual returning to university or technical college after spending time in the work place or raising a family (non-traditional) yearly.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Applicant must be a member or the son or daughter (or under the legal guardianship) of an active member of the Oakdale Electric Cooperative in good standing and accepted at a post-secondary program or accredited training program.
- Applicants do not have to attend Youth Leadership Congress, but are required to write an essay.
- The disbursement of this scholarship will be awarded after all qualifications are met and verification of enrollment.

APPLICATION:

The complete rules and application for the at-large/non-tradition scholarship is currently available on our website, www.oakdalerec.com. Otherwise, it can be mailed or emailed to interested applicants.

DEADLINE:

The essay must be postmarked by **May 8, 2015**. The scholarship will be awarded in June 2015, and claim for the \$1,000 award can be made at that time.

#3: Lineworker Scholarship

A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior pursuing a post-secondary education in an electrical lineworker program.

ELIGIBILITY:

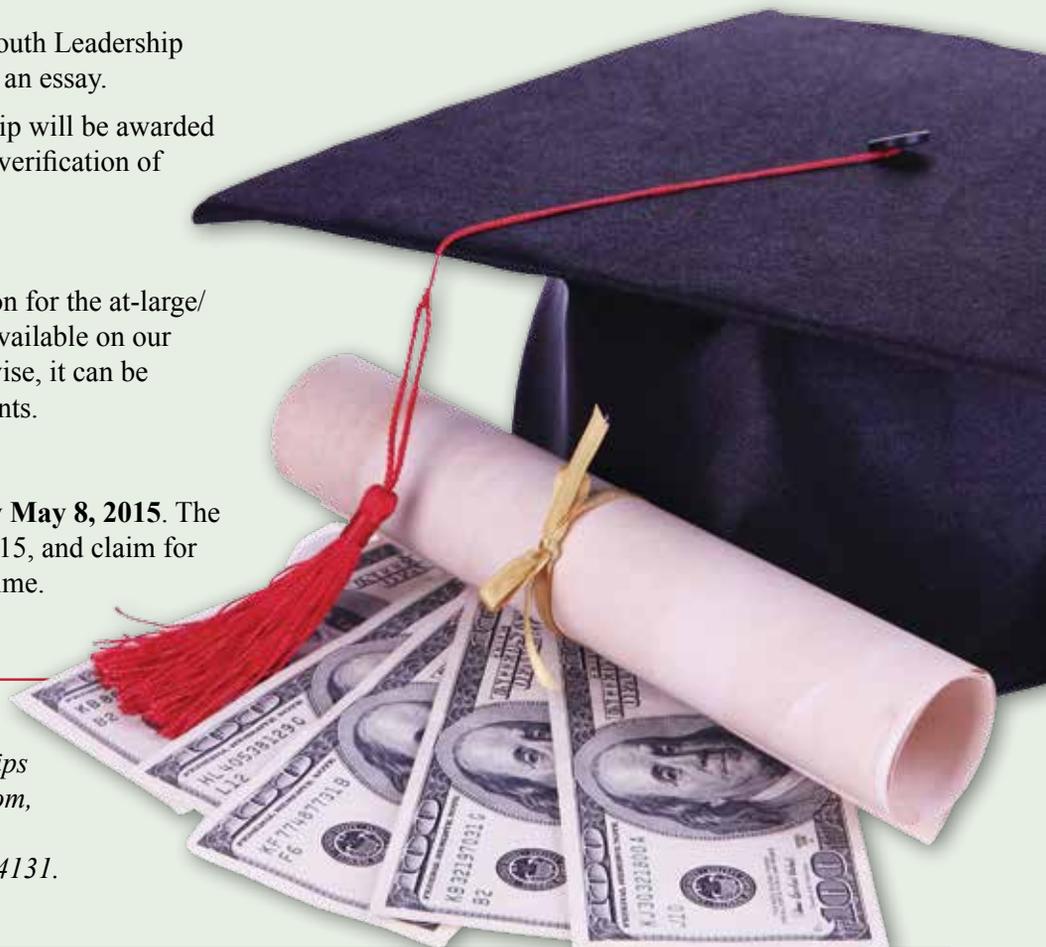
Any high school senior applicant enrolling in a lineworker program. Preference will be given to OEC members, and residents of Monroe, Juneau, Jackson, Sauk, and Wood counties.

APPLICATION:

The complete rules and application for the Lineworker Scholarship is currently available on our website, www.oakdalerec.com. Otherwise, it can be mailed or emailed to interested applicants.

DEADLINE:

The essay must be postmarked by **May 8, 2015**. The scholarship will be awarded in June 2015 and claim for the \$1,000 award can be made at that time. ■



For complete rules on all scholarships visit our website, www.oakdalerec.com, or contact Deana Protz at dprotz@oakdalerec.com or (608) 372-4131.

Oakdale Electric Welcomes Heather Linenberg

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is pleased to welcome Heather Linenberg as our new consumer services specialist. Heather was previously employed with the Tomah Area School District and brings over 15 years of customer service experience to the cooperative. She is responsible for providing support to members, both in person and over the phone, processing payments, and managing members' accounts. Oakdale Electric Cooperative prides itself on providing superior, member-focused service and is fortunate to hire an employee of Heather's caliber and background.

Heather and her husband reside in the Tomah area with their youngest

daughter, a sophomore at Tomah High School. Their older daughter is currently studying business at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. On a bright and sunny day, you will be hard-pressed to find Heather indoors, as she enjoys working in her flower beds and garden, biking, camping, and being with family.

Heather is excited for her new chapter in life, and is looking forward to meeting and assisting you, our members.

"Blessings come in all different forms, and having the opportunity to join the amazing team at Oakdale Electric Cooperative is a GREAT blessing for my family and I," Heather said. ■



Service Milestones

Oakdale Electric Cooperative recently recognized two employees for reaching years-of-service milestones. Tina Von Haden, left, was recognized for 15 years of service, and Rose Bartholomew was recognized for 35 years.



Capital Credit Allocations:

The 2014 capital credit allocations have been completed and appeared on the February 27th billing. Inactive members who received service in 2014 will receive a notice in the mail.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is right around the corner! Have you changed your home's air filter? Filters get loaded with more and more particles as they do their job. This actually has the effect of making them more efficient, but it also increases resistance and reduces airflow. Remember to check filters once a month.



Calling All Shutterbugs!

The 2015 Member Photo Contest is Underway!

"Life in Rural Wisconsin"

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is holding its annual photo contest for members' photos to be featured in our 2016 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications. The contest runs through August 21, 2015; however, submitted photos can be taken outside this date range.

Photos can be emailed to dprotz@oakdalerec.com, mailed to P.O. Box 128, Oakdale, WI 54649, or dropped off at the Oakdale Electric Cooperative office (489 N. Oakwood St., Oakdale).

For a complete set of rules, as well as entry forms and photo release forms, visit our website at www.oakdalerec.com.



Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



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7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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Toll-free online bill payment:

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