

WE CAN HELP YOU PAY FOR COLLEGE!



Are you saving up for your post-secondary education? Oakdale Electric Cooperative can help! We offer three scholarship opportunities to qualifying member students. Check out our website, oakdalerec.com, to learn more.

Youth Scholarship: Scholarships of \$1,500, \$1,250, and \$1,000 are awarded to authors of the top three essays at each of 12 participating public high schools. *Essays available following Youth Leadership Congress; essays must be postmarked no later than August 23, 2019.*

At-Large/Non-Traditional Scholarship: One \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a high school senior not enrolled in one of 12 participating public high schools or someone returning to school after spending time working or raising a family. *Deadline: May 3, 2019*

Lineworker Scholarship: One \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a high school senior pursuing an electrical lineworker career. *Deadline: May 3, 2019*

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

Learn what makes the co-op business model special

Develop your leadership skills

Explore life on a college campus with teens from around the state

Run for the Youth Board

July 24-26
UW-River Falls
Open to all OEC member high school students entering their senior year

Challenge yourself in motivational sessions lead by peers and pros

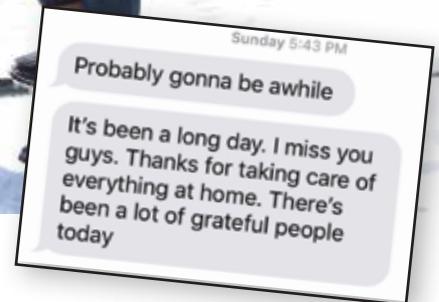
Oakdale Electric Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

All costs, including transportation, are covered by OEC. Interested? Contact Deana Protz, dprotz@oakdalerec.com.

MY CO-OP



The commitment of an ELECTRICAL LINeworker



Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 8.

National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage create the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings, or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

Family Support System

To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience, and each other to get the

job done safely.

Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineworker's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages.

This means in times of prolonged outages, the family and their lineworker may have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.

"Extended outages, especially during the winter months, are difficult on our family," stated Kelli Ollendick, wife of John Ollendick, construction foreman. With four children and a farm to operate, the entire family has to take on extra duties when dad is on call. Kelli explained further, "We all miss John when he is away, especially when it comes to certain farm chores, but we work together and pull through."

The Ollendicks have instilled in their children the importance of working hard and serving others. "Carter, Cale, Calynn, and Collin understand how many members are relying on their dad to keep them safe. They are proud of the

work he does. John is their role model, and I respect his commitment to the cooperative,” Kelli said proudly.

Community Commitment

In Oakdale and across the country, electric co-op lineworkers’ mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the cooperative. Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. They can be

found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities, and serving on local advisory boards.

Our local crew is equally as committed to their communities. A few examples include, Joe Engel volunteers for the city of Tomah’s fire department, Andy Steele coaches his daughter’s hockey team, and Roy Boyles volunteers at his church’s monthly food share distributions.

Thank You

Monday, April 8, is Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of Oakdale Electric Cooperative’s lineworkers, both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or out and about in the town, please offer them a thank you as well.



Ruby’s Pantry is a faith-based Pop-Up (food) Pantry serving 300 families monthly at the Oasis Church in Tomah. Roy Boyles has volunteered at the Pop-Up Pantry since the program began three years ago. “A \$20 donation will provide a household with approximately 80 pounds of food,” stated Boyles, who helps manage the registration table. Participants can register online, or on site upon arrival. There are no income or residency requirements, and documentation is not needed. For more information, visit rubyspantry.org.

For over 20 years, Joe Engel has aided in keeping Tomah residents safe by serving as a volunteer fireman. This role has been an easy fit for Joe, who initially became involved when he lived only a block from the station. “I could literally run to the station when a call came in,” stated Engel. Although he may live a little farther from the fire house now, that hasn’t distanced his desire to serve and protect.



Andy Steele grew up playing hockey, and has passed on his love for the sport to his oldest daughter, Camryn. He further shares his skills and knowledge by serving as an assistant coach for the WI TnT Girls U10 team. Team representative Jen Berg stated, “Andy is an amazing coach. The girls adore him!”



HARD HATS AT WORK

Our linemen wear many types of (hard) hats while at work. Most recently they put on their educator hats to teach electrical safety at local schools and businesses as part of the co-op's Hotline Demonstration Program. Brock Brown and Dalton Linzmeier traveled to the Reedsburg and Wonewoc-Center Schools Districts to present on the powerfulness of electricity and how to stay safe around it to 900 students. Youth dressed up like linemen to show the safety steps crew members take to ensure jobsite safety. And no school visit would be complete without an engaging visual display of a hotdog touching a live wire. It is a visual long remembered!

A stop at Handishop Industries, to reinforce electrical safety to a group of individuals with special needs, completed the weeklong program. Two special honorary linemen were named and they each received official Oakdale Electric Cooperative hats.

Hard hat electrical safety wheels with tips applicable to all ages were provided to participants.

Bruce Ardel, General Manager

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Deana Protz, Editor



**Oakdale Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



to contribute

**Operation Round Up:
The co-op's member-
driven community
support program!**

Members Helping Members

Enroll in Operation Round Up now through SmartHub, and join the 1,600 members already rounding up their electric bill to

the next highest dollar. The spare change collected is awarded throughout the year to local organizations and individuals in need. So far over \$67,000 has been donated back into the communities your co-op serves!



Easy Enrollment

Visit oakdalerec.com on a PC and log into SmartHub.

Select **Billing & Payments**.

Choose **Operation Round Up**.

Click **enroll** and **confirm**.

Too complicated?

Call us to enroll at 608-372-4131.

Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
24-Hour Emergency Power Restoration: 800-927-6151
Toll-free Online Bill Payment 866-392-4307

Diggers Hotline: For underground cable locates and power line clearance information, call 800-242-8511.