

# INTER-COUNTY ENERGY

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## “An incredible experience”

*Local student reflects on Washington Youth Tour*

By Kasey Padgett

The Washington Youth Tour provided me with an extraordinary and enlightening experience. During the tour, I had the opportunity to connect with individuals from diverse backgrounds and gain insight into city life over the course of a week. Having grown up in a rural community, the transition to the bustling city environment was truly eye-opening. During my visit, I came across some fascinating facts that I'd love to share. One of them is that the Washington Monument features two distinct colors due to a pause in construction during a war. When work resumed, the original material used was no longer available, resulting in a noticeable color variation.

Additionally, the 9/11 memorial at the Pentagon includes a poignant detail: the orientation of the benches. Benches facing the direction from which the plane approached were dedicated to those who perished aboard the aircraft, while those facing the Pentagon honored the individuals who lost their lives within the building. Delving deeper into our nation's history was a profoundly enriching experience.

I had the extraordinary honor of



TIM WEBB

participating in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The moment reminded me of the incredible sacrifices made by soldiers who have fearlessly given their lives for our country. It was a humbling and unforgettable experience, and I will always cherish the opportunity.

Another memorable part of my trip was witnessing the Marine Corps Sunset Parade. The precision and skill displayed by the Marines during the silent drill left me in awe. Watching them perform with such discipline and expertise was truly mesmerizing. I also thoroughly enjoyed visiting the historic homes of past presidents, where I was amazed to see original artifacts and

gain insights into U.S. history.

Another highlight for me was the opportunity to connect with peers from across the nation through pin trading. Not only did I collect unique pins, but I also formed connections and friendships with other teenagers from 44 states. This experience allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and further develop my social skills.

The entire week in Washington, D.C., was an incredible and enriching experience. I am immensely grateful to Inter-County Energy for selecting me for this unforgettable tour. The memories I made and the new experiences I gained in the nation's capital will stay with me forever.



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

# Flagpole safety

Being patriotic is important, but so is being safe when working with flagpoles. Whether you are installing a fiberglass or a metal flagpole, follow these tips to be safe:

1. Call 811 before digging to install a flagpole.
2. Be overly cautious when working around power lines. Maintain at least a 20-foot clearance around power lines and any nearby trees. Consider both the flagpole length and the flag size for the 20-foot clearance.
3. If a pole comes in contact with a power line, serious injury or death can

occur to anyone holding the pole or standing nearby.

4. Any object touching an overhead power line could serve as a conduit for the electricity should it reach the ground, including humans.
5. A typical residential flagpole, which is installed in the ground, is 20-25 feet tall. When using a 20-foot pole with a recommended maximum flag size of 3x5 feet, the pole should be no closer than 45 feet to any overhead power lines. If you are using a 25-foot pole with a recommended maximum flag size of 4x6 feet, the

pole should be no closer than 51 feet from any existing overhead power lines.

6. Check local regulations and building codes before installing a flagpole.

“We fly the American flag, not for the flag itself, but for the living country it stands for,” says Jerry Carter, president/CEO at Inter-County Energy. “Most importantly, we raise our flags for the many Americans who fought and died to protect the freedom of the United States of America.”

# Make energy savings fun for kids

Want to train your children to use energy more efficiently? Make it fun.

Here are some ideas:

- Give your kids a quarter or even a penny every time you catch them turning off the lights or TV when they leave a room. Take a coin back if they leave their video games running or leave lights on in an empty room.
- Reward older kids with a small bonus on their allowance each month that they help lower the household energy bill.
- Educate your children about how they might be wasting energy by holding the refrigerator door open or leaving the front door ajar when they run outside. Then, deputize your little ones as your home’s “energy police.” Put them on the lookout for energy-wasters like phone chargers that are plugged into the wall without a phone on the other end or TVs that are on when nobody’s watching.
- Spend an afternoon decorating badges that put your children in charge of your home’s “Operation: Save Energy.” Then take them on a raid of the house, looking for ways your family is wasting energy.
- Set up an energy-efficiency obstacle course. Send your kids on a race through the house to find other family members or friends acting out energy-wasting activities. Tell your kids they have to find culprits in each room and correct the energy wasters before they can move on. Time them as they race through the house and award points each time they correct an action.
- Each week, post a chart on the refrigerator and keep a tally of each time a family member gets caught wasting energy. The person with the fewest tallies by Friday night gets to pick the movie.

If you make saving energy a game rather than a chore, you might get your kids excited about your cause. Soon enough, they’ll be correcting you when you forget to flip the switch.



SPYRANOT/ADOBE STOCK

# Flag guidelines

The United States Flag Code is a federal law that establishes advisory rules for display and care of the national flag. Here are a few of the guidelines it lays out.

The flag is usually flown between sunrise and sunset. It's a sign of respect to bring it inside at night. However, the flag can be flown overnight, as long as it's illuminated during the hours of darkness.

The flag should never be used for advertising or used as a costume or athletic uniform. A flag patch, however, is appropriate for military, fire, police and patriotic organization uniforms. When a lapel flag pin is worn, it should be "on the left lapel near the heart."

When a flag has become too worn to display, it should be disposed of "in a dignified way, preferably by burning." For additional guidelines, visit [uscodel.house.gov](http://uscodel.house.gov) and search "U.S. Flag Code."



CHRISTIAN DELBERT/ADOBE STOCK

# We're here for students

As your children head back to school, your cooperative will be right there with them, providing reliable, competitively priced electricity. We'll keep the lights on. We'll invest in our community so there will be opportunity waiting for them here at home when they finish their education. We'll also support them with a variety of initiatives that enhance their educational experience from pre-school through high school.

Our constant commitment to young people is founded in one of the Seven Cooperative Principles that defines our business model: "Education, Training and Information." Among all of the engagement work our co-op does, outreach efforts for youth are a personal favorite for me because they represent a long-term investment in the health of our co-op and our communities.

We've built a strong relationship with local schools by providing interesting and age-appropriate programs that support curriculum. Inter-County Energy personnel also share electrical safety, renewable energy and conservation information with scout groups,

4-H clubs and other youth programs.

One of our ways of supporting our members is the annual awarding of scholarships to graduating high school seniors who live within our service area. These scholarships help pay for post-high school opportunities like college, trade schools or other educational opportunities. Since 1992, Inter-County Energy has provided scholarships to help more than 190 local students.

Our investment doesn't end with graduation, though. We're also working to give these young people a reason to stay in our community after their education is finished.

Inter-County Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are investing in economic development initiatives that give them a reason to stay. Attracting new businesses to our region brings more and better-paying jobs for this next generation of workers.



WAVEBRAIN/MEDIA/SHUTTERSTOCK

We hope today's students will become the next generation of co-op members and community leaders. Some may even come to work for Inter-County Energy or some day serve on the co-op's board of directors.

With each new school year, our responsibility continues—to help those we serve fully understand the power of electricity and the life-changing power of co-op membership.



# Member-valued, new technology is coming

## OUR MISSION

Inter-County Energy accomplishes our daily mission by providing energy and services to our members through a culture of Safety, Accountability, Integrity, Innovation and Commitment to Community.

## PRESIDENT/CEO

Jerry Carter

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## OFFICES:

DANVILLE/BOYLE COUNTY

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

(859) 236-4561

LEBANON/DISTRICT OFFICE

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 A.M. - 4 P.M.

(270) 692-3761

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**LUTHAN**  
ELECTRIC METER TESTING

MORGAN JANSEN

Inter-County Energy has begun the process of upgrading its metering system with a new advanced meter, providing our members with improved access to their daily usage patterns and usage data in 60-minute increments, along with other usage management options.

Our contractor, Luthan Electric Meter, has started the meter exchange project on behalf of the cooperative, a project approved by the Kentucky Public Service Commission. We are moving throughout our service territory in a county-specific process exchanging meters.

Luthan Electric started exchanging

meters in Boyle County in late July. From there, the eastern portion of Casey County is next; then on to Lincoln and Rockcastle counties. We are planning to finish the end of 2024 in Garrard County and a western portion of Madison County. Once 2025 begins, our plan is for Luthan Electric to start in Mercer County, then move to Marion and Washington counties. Meter installations in the western portion of Casey County, Taylor, LaRue, and Nelson counties will finish the project sometime in 2025.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work to enhance our services for you.