

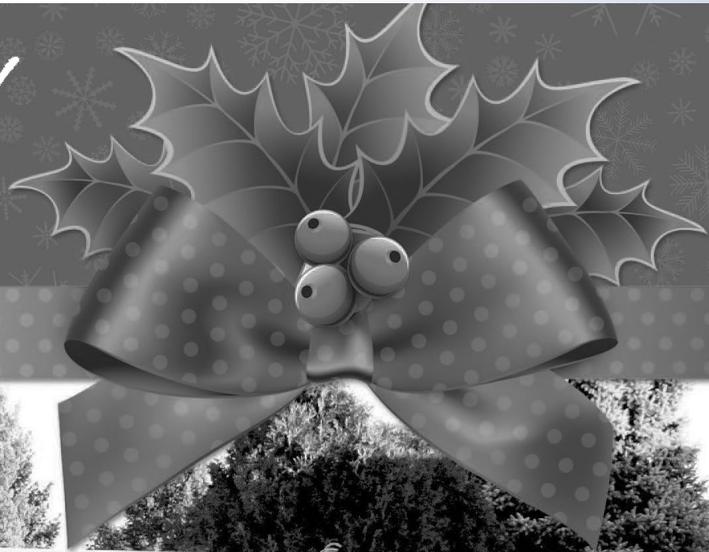
ROCK ENERGY NEWS

FOR ROCK ENERGY COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

www.rock.coop

December 2018

Happy Holidays!
Your Friends at
Rock Energy Cooperative



Co-op Scholarships Offered to High School Seniors

Rock Energy Cooperative again is offering scholarships of \$500 to graduating high school seniors who enroll at an accredited school.

Students whose parents or guardians are active members of REC are eligible. In other words, students can apply if their household receives electricity and/or natural gas from the co-op. The deadline is Jan. 9.

Our independent scholarship com-

mittee will judge applicants based on general merit, cooperation, leadership abilities, financial need, and class ranking. Since 1989, Rock Energy has awarded more than \$102,000 in financial aid to deserving students.

In addition, scholarships of \$2,000 will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. They are available to high school se-

niors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the co-op. That deadline is Dec. 31.

Online applications for both scholarships are available at www.rock.coop. Just go to the Community & Youth tab and click on Scholarships. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Uebelacker, communications director, at 866-752-4550 or barbu@rock.coop.

12 Days of Holiday Safety

It's easy to make safety a part of your holiday with these tips. Tackle one a day and you're well on your way to a safe New Year!



ESFi
Electrical Safety Foundation International

Day 1

What's that noise?

Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Make sure everyone knows what to do if they hear them.

Day 5

Ouch! Prevent trips and falls by keeping cords safely along walls and out of doorways and high traffic areas.

Day 9

Nice and warm. Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn—decorations, trees, gifts, and curtains.

Day 2

What a shocker!

Before use, inspect all electrical lights, decorations, and extension cords for damage.

Day 6

Kids eat the darndest things! Avoid putting lights, metal hooks, breakable ornaments, and other small decorations within reach of young children.

Day 10

Can't touch this! Consider installing tamper-resistant outlets/receptacles to prevent kids from inserting objects into the slots.

Day 3

Two's company, three's a crowd. Do not overload outlets with too many decorations or devices.

Day 7

Thirsty? Keep your Christmas tree stand full of water. A fresh, green tree poses less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.

Day 11

Escape Route: Share your family fire escape plan with overnight guests.

Day 4

Is it working? Test your ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to make sure they're protecting you.

Day 8

Make a wish! Blow out the candles before leaving a room or going to bed.

Day 12

Hot stuff! Keep children away from cooking areas; use back burners and turn pot handles in away from little hands.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets, like TVs, gaming consoles, chargers and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet, even when they're not in use.

Source: energy.gov



Electric Rates Will Change on Jan. 1

Effective Jan. 1, 2019, the monthly facilities charge on most electric accounts will increase \$1. This adjustment moves the monthly charge slightly closer to the actual fixed cost of serving an account and will allow the per kilowatt-hour energy charge to remain relatively steady in 2019.

Energy Assistance Is Available

Assistance programs for families who need help with their energy bills are now open in both Wisconsin and Illinois.

The program's heat and electric assistance is a one-time benefit payment per heating season. The amount depends on household size, income, and energy costs.

To find out what office covers your area, Wisconsin members can call 866-432-8947 or go to www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov. In Illinois, call 877-411-9276 or visit www.illinoisliheap.com.

In addition, assistance is available through Rock Cooperative Care, the co-op's program that assists members with their energy bills. Go to www.rock.coop for details. Just click on Assistance Programs under Your Account.

Co-op Offices Closed for Holidays

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Monday, Dec. 24, and Tuesday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas and Monday, Dec. 31, and Tuesday, Jan. 1, for the New Year's holiday. Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices throughout the holidays.

Even though our offices are closed, standby crews are always available 24 hours a day. If you need to report a power outage, please call 866-752-4550.



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