



Brett Severin and Makenna Sterling at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colo.

Youth Hone Leadership Abilities at Colorado Cooperative Camp

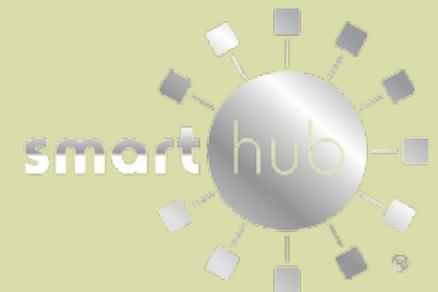
Co-op principles plus adventure made for good times

High school students from Oklahoma developed leadership skills at the 41st annual Cooperative Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Joining peers from Kansas, Colorado, and Wyoming, approximately 100 youth learned about the cooperative principles at the educational retreat July 14-20.

Makenna Sterling from Medford High School and Brett Severin from Garber High School represented Kay Electric Cooperative at the 2017 Cooperative Leadership Camp.

Oklahoma and Kansas participants met as they boarded the bus along its route to Colorado. When the bus arrived in Denver, the group enjoyed a snorkeling experience at the Denver Aquarium. Campers swam face-to-face with a Grouper, a school of Cownose rays, Moray Eels, red drums, nurse sharks and 400 other exotic underwater species.

When the group arrived at Glen Eden Resort, nestled in the Rocky Mountains, the campers immediately began daily membership meetings and selected a general manager, board of directors, and set up several committees. The week-



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- District 1.....Jake Olsen
- District 2.....Chad Otto
- District 3.....Ron Shoffner
- District 4.....Max Hohmann
- District 5.....Mike Lebeda
- District 6.....Brady Hostetler
- District 7.....Kent McAninch
- District 8.....Dr. Tim Blanton
- District 9.....Verl Brorsen

General Manager/CEO
Tim Rodriguez

“The amazing friendships I developed in such a short time, I’ll remember them forever.”

—BRETT SEVERIN
2017 COOPERATIVE LEADERSHIP CAMP

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-  Pay online using our secure site at www.kayelectric.coop
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Let KEC Incentives Help You Save!

Kay Electric Cooperative (KEC) wants to encourage members to make their homes more energy efficient. KEC energy efficiency incentives can help you increase the level of insulation in your home and reduce the cost associated with installing an energy efficient heat pump or electric water heater.

KEC offers the following incentive rebates:

- **Attic Insulation:** Kay Electric pays 50 percent of installing additional insulation up to \$500.
- **Heat Pump:** KEC offers a rebate of \$1,000/ton (up to 5 ton max) on closed loop ground source heat pumps (GSHP) (15.9 EER/3.03 COP) and open loop GSHP systems (18 EER/3.6 COP).
- **Water Heaters:** Rebates up to \$300 on natural gas/LP conversion to electric systems, new or additional installations, and new mobile home units.

For complete details and rebate forms, please visit www.kayelectric.coop or call KEC at 800-535-1070.

\$25 is hiding in this issue!

Please read your newsletter carefully. If you spot your account number hidden in these pages, please contact Kay Electric immediately to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill. If no account numbers are claimed, the prize money will carry over to the next month for a maximum bill credit of \$50.

800-535-1079
contact@kayelectric.coop

A New View of Electrical Usage

Think of your home as a generating source

Have you ever considered investing in the generation of your own electricity? Maybe you've thought about solar and batteries as an option to the electrical grid? Before rural electrification, folks living on farms and ranches sometimes used batteries to power lights in their homes. They charged these batteries with a windmill or charged them in town. Some would even use a water wheel to power a generator for electricity, if they happened to be close to significant running water. People were very ingenious in the past and they still are today. Once the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) made it possible to string lines in the country, it was much more convenient and economical to hook up to the grid.



By Tim Rodriguez, CEO
 KAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A new and different way to think about energy, conservation, saving money and being environmentally responsible is to think of your home as a "generator" in and of itself. When we make our homes more energy efficient by adding more insulation, improved windows, or sealing cracks, we allow our electric cooperative

to avoid costs associated with bringing additional power to your home. When you, as an energy user, spread your usage out over time rather than using energy all at once during peak times, you help your electric co-op avoid costs associated with generating and transmitting that energy to your home. In the future, utilities will send a solid "price signal" that allows members who think of their home as a "generator" to reap benefits associated with making their home more efficient and conserving usage during the most expensive part of the day. By doing this, you won't have to make a large investment in producing electricity; instead, you can make simple changes that include voluntarily lowering your usage during peak hours when electricity is more costly.

At my house, we tried a little experiment during a recent peak day. During the peak period from 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm, we turned the thermostats up six degrees, did not go in and out of house, kept the window shades down, waited until later to cook dinner, and even talked with each other

Home Usage Shows Peak Reduction

By reducing energy use from 4 pm to 6 pm (shown in orange) on a peak alert day, General Manager Tim Rodriguez helped lower KEC's wholesale power costs.



Electrical Usage

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rather than turn on the TV. Our kilowatt (kW) usage for the peak hour (what we demanded from the system) went down from a normal 9 kW to 3 kW. During that peak time, our wholesale power supplier, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, charges Kay Electric \$5.85 per kW for the generation component of the bill. That's a reduction in the monthly bill of \$35.10 for managing my home during the peak time. Imagine the savings if every member did that.

We survived, and after the peak period was over, we returned our home to its normal usage by lowering

the thermostat, cooking dinner, and turning on the TV. Our home acted as a generator that we controlled, thus saving money without a large investment.

As users of electricity, we need to not only think about how and when electricity is priced, but also to think of our homes as a generator that we control. In doing so, we can lower our home's bill, lower the cooperative's wholesale power bill, better serve the environment, place less stress on the electrical grid, and who knows, maybe even communicate better with our spouse. ACCT#227707

Youth Leadership Camp

Cont'd from page 1

long experience also gave participants an authentic camp experience with river rafting, volleyball tournament, swimming, a dance, and a talent show.

Several demonstrations and presentations enhanced students' knowledge of the cooperative model and the operations at their electric cooperative. Campers competed to build a model transmission line out of craft supplies, toured Trapper Mine, Craig Power Plant, a solar array, and experienced a high-voltage safety demonstration. The campers also raised \$390 to donate to the NRECA International Foundation.

"The whole trip was amazing! I would come back every year if I could," said Makenna Sterling. "I have so many memories from this trip that it's hard to choose just a few. I will definitely remember the new friends I made."

Cyndi Mitchell, Kay Electric's Youth Tour and camp coordinator, said the co-op sends students on the trip to learn firsthand how cooperatives work.

"The students learn how important it is to be involved in their communities," she added.

Campers elected Brett Severin to serve as president of the cooperative board at camp.

"Being elected president opened me to lots of attention which normally is not a position I'm in," he said. "The amazing friendships I developed in such a short time, I'll remember them forever."

KEC selected Severin and Sterling from a group of high school applicants who were asked to write a 500 word essay. Judges selected the top eight essayist, who presented their essays in speech form at KEC's Annual Youth Tour Banquet.

KEC sponsors the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp for two students each year. ACCT#393602

For more information on Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, please contact Cyndi Mitchell at **800-535-1079** or visit www.kayelectric.coop.

Whose Line Is It?

The pineapple-shaped insulator says it's Kay Electric

Just because an electric line runs along a country road doesn't mean it belongs to your electric co-op. While Kay Electric appreciates members reporting unsafe electrical situations, it helps to know whose line is causing problems before we dispatch personnel to check it out.

A clue is provided in the shape of the insulator. Kay Electric insulators are shaped like pineapples with ripples. (See image, below.)



Kay Electric insulator.

Other companies use insulators with a more rounded shape. (See image, left.)



Insulator belonging to another company.

If you notice a drooping line or downed pole in an area with multiple lines, please notice the insulator and

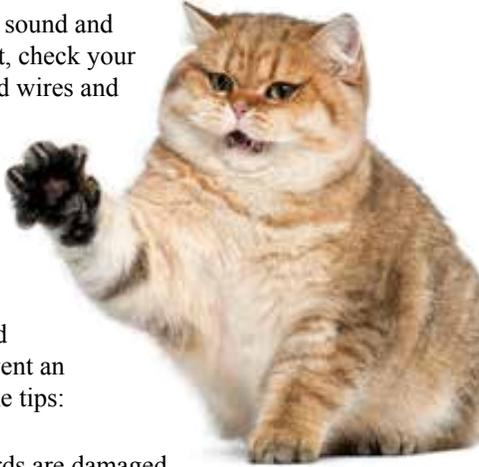
provide that information to Kay Electric when you call. Report problems 24/7 by calling **800-535-1079**. Thank you for your help!



Hissing Sound?

It might not be a cat. Check your home wiring to be safe.

If you hear a hissing sound and you don't have a cat, check your electricity. Damaged wires and outlets can hiss when something's wrong—just like the cat. But hissing electricity is much more dangerous than your pet.



So check your cords and outlets regularly to prevent an electrical accident. Some tips:

1. When electrical cords are damaged, worn, cracked or corroded, the chances of fire or power surges increase significantly. Check for loose or improper connections, cracked wire insulation, chewed electrical wiring or frayed appliance or electrical cords. Call a licensed electrician to fix wiring problems; electricity is not a do-it-yourself project.
2. It's common sense: Avoid plugging anything into an electrical outlet near a water source. But did you know that even plugging a cell phone in too close to water can create a hazard if it falls into a tub or sink and you stick your hand in to retrieve it? You could get shocked.
3. Do you have a fire extinguisher in your home? To douse an electrical fire, which usually start because of faulty wires or outlets, you need one. Never throw water onto an electrical fire; it can electrocute you.
4. Child-proof all electrical outlets within the reach of your small children. Insert outlet covers where the prongs of an appliance go. That will prevent toddlers from sticking fingers and other objects into the sockets.
5. Cramming too many plugs into a power strip and plugging it into an outlet that's not sturdy enough for the load can cause the outlet to overheat and the circuit to trip. If you need more outlets, hire an electrician to solve your problem.

Providing safe and reliable power is a priority for your electric cooperative. For more information on electrical safety or to schedule a free safety program for your classroom or organization, please call Kay Electric Cooperative at 800-535-1079 or visit www.kayelectric.coop.

Honey Mustard Chicken-Bacon-Avocado Salad

Contributed by Patty Moore, Deer Creek

INGREDIENTS

Dressing/Marinade

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/3 cup honey
- 3 tablespoons stone ground mustard
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 1/2 lemon
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 4 skinless boneless chicken thighs

Salad

- 1 head romaine lettuce, chopped
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/4 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 avocado, diced
- 1 hard-boiled egg, sliced
- 1/4 cup cooked bacon, diced

DIRECTIONS

In a small bowl, add the olive oil, honey, stone ground mustard, Dijon mustard, lemon, garlic, salt, and pepper. Whisk until smooth.

Remove 1/2 of the marinade and refrigerate to use as the dressing.

Add chicken thighs to remaining marinade and let it marinate for two hours.

Add a teaspoon of olive oil to a nonstick pan. Sear chicken on each side until golden, crispy and cooked through. Set aside and allow to rest.

Put lettuce in a large bowl. Add tomatoes, red onions, avocado slices and hard-boiled egg.

Slice chicken into strips and place in the salad.

Add the remaining marinade to the salad and toss.

Sprinkle bacon on top.

Yield: 4 servings.