

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.horryelectric.com

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**TO REPORT
POWER OUTAGES ONLY**
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Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc., is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a non-profit, member-owned organization providing information and energy-related services on a fair and equitable basis.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Know the signs of a scam

Don't fall victim to these attacks

UTILITY SCAMS have been around for years, but fraudsters have altered their tactics since the

pandemic. As people became more reliant on technology for work and school, scammers shifted their focus to electronic scams.

Imposter scams are now the number one type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may still show up at your door posing as someone who works for the "power company," in today's more connected world, attempts are more likely to come via electronic devices.

Common types of scams

Cutoff con A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect service if you don't pay immediately. Whether by phone, text or email, scammers want to scare you into immediate action so you'll make a payment.

Sadly, this type of scam is common. Recently, some members received phony service disconnection calls. Unfortunately, these were from scammers who spoofed our phone number to make it look like Horry Electric was calling. Our I.T. department works hard to combat cybersecurity attacks, but in situations of phone spoofing, our hands are tied. If you receive a questionable disconnection call, hang up and dial (843) 369-2211 to speak to a member service representative. Horry Electric does not provide a payment option during an automated past due service disconnection call.

Refund rip-off Some scammers falsely claim you've been overcharged on your bill and they want to give you a refund. It sounds easy—all you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you'll be

prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of a refund going into your bank account, the scammers steal your money and use your information, such as a Social Security number, for identity theft.

If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, hang up and block the number. If it happens over text or email, DO NOT click any links. Delete it and block the sender. If you overpay, Horry Electric will automatically apply the credit to your account and you will see it reflected on your MyEnergy Online account or your next billing statement.

Defend yourself

Be wary of calls or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

Never let anyone in your home that you don't know. Horry Electric employees will never ask to come inside your home. A lineworker may knock on your door to notify you of an outage, or a field service representative may knock to talk about service disconnection. Our employees will never ask for cash payment at your door. If they're notifying you of disconnection for nonpayment, you can pay using regular payment methods. Call (843) 369-2211, use the HEC mobile app or log in to MyEnergy Online.

We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent other members in the community from falling victim to these attacks.

When in doubt, call us.

Daniel B. Shelley, III

DANIEL B. SHELLEY, III
Executive Vice President and CEO

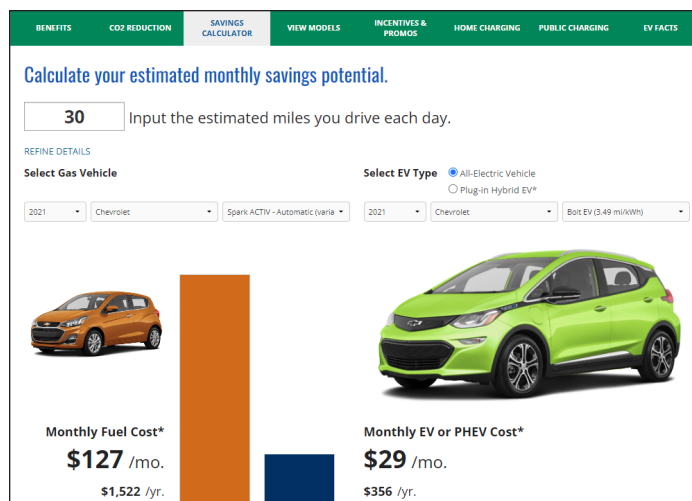
ChooseEV tool designed to help potential EV members

HORRY ELECTRIC'S TRUSTED energy advisors are available to provide a wealth of information to help members make informed decisions when it comes to energy-related purchases, such as heat pumps, water heaters and smart thermostats.

Member interest about the transition from gas-powered to electric vehicles is growing. If you're interested in electric vehicles (EVs), talk to us. We understand EVs are still a new technology, and we are here to answer your questions.

As your trusted energy advisor, we want to be the trusted source for EV information. Members can visit www.horryelectric.com/chooseev/ for a comprehensive guide to EVs, including the benefits, costs and purchase options. This interactive tool is available to everyone, not just members. You can research EVs before ever visiting a showroom.

ChooseEV also includes current incentives, tax rebates and promotions available to buyers, home charging products and the locations of public chargers. One of the most useful tools on the site is the savings calculator, which factors Horry Electric



ChooseEV allows members to compare different electric vehicles to gas vehicles and calculate monthly costs and savings.

rates into the calculations of projected charging costs. This can help you determine if an EV is right for you.

"Electric vehicles are guaranteed to have an impact on a member's monthly bill," says Gordon Lay, Horry Electric's accounts receivable and energy service supervisor. "As your electric cooperative, we want to provide useful data and information."

Visit the "Energy Programs" page on horryelectric.com or call to speak to one of our trusted energy advisors at (843) 369-2211 for more helpful resources regarding energy efficient products and more.

Visit the Smart Solutions Store

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR MORE energy efficient products to add to your smart home? Look no further than our Smart Solutions Store on BeatThePeak.com. The store includes products, such as LED light bulbs, electric vehicle chargers, smart home products, efficiency goods, tools and appliances.

With a simple click, shoppers are taken directly to the desired Amazon.com product page. To find the Smart Solutions Store, visit BeatThePeak.com and select the Smart Solutions Store tab under the "Home Solutions" tab.

"There are a lot of energy efficient and smart home products out there," says Garrett Gasque, senior marketing and energy management representative. "These recommendations have been carefully curated to offer products that have been manufactured by dependable brands and have a reasonable price tag."

If you have questions or concerns about any of the products, contact one of your trusted energy advisors by calling (843) 369-2211.

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Be prepared for summer storms

DESPITE ALL THE WEATHER DATA

and real-time alerts we have access to, summer storms can roll in unexpectedly. Whenever severe weather threatens, Horry Electric crews are ready, and we encourage our members to be prepared.

Have a plan In the event of a tornado or hurricane, take shelter in a pre-determined safe area, such as a centrally-located room without windows, like a hallway or closet.

Have a backup When severe weather is predicted, make sure your devices are fully charged and portable power banks are ready to go. Have a storm kit stocked with flashlights, a weather radio, water and other essentials.

Stay informed Listen to local weather updates to track the storm and visit the Horry Electric Facebook page for outage and restoration information. In the event of a natural disaster, outage and restoration information will also be posted on Horry Electric's Instagram and Twitter pages.

Stay safe High winds may bring



Advanced Line Technician Sean Brown restocks supplies on his truck so he's prepared to respond to a storm.

down power lines. Remember, if you come across downed power lines, turn around. Lines may still be energized. Stay away and never drive over them. If you encounter standing water while driving, turn around and find a safer route.

For more information and

storm preparedness tips, visit the "Preparedness" section of the outage center on horryelectric.com. To report an outage, text OUT to MyOutage at 1 (844) 369-2767, call PowerTouch at (843) 369-2212, log in to the MyEnergy Online portal, use the HEC mobile app, or text OUTAGE to 352667.

Electrical safety tips for hunters

AS THEY PEER ACROSS FIELDS and track any sight of their prey, hunters must be aware of their surroundings if they are to have a successful hunt. Horry Electric encourages members to look for any electrical equipment in the fields and woodlands where they hunt.

For dove hunters—whose season opens Sept. 4—shooting a bird on a wire is not only contrary to hunter ethics, it's unsafe. A direct hit to a conductor can cause damage that has delayed and expensive consequences.

"The wire might survive for a period of time, but will eventually burn through," explains Burroughs Nobles, Horry Electric's

manager of operations. "Now repair costs turn into restoration costs and members served by the damaged line are without power."

South Carolina's Department of Natural Resources offers the following guidance to avoid power lines while hunting:

- ▶ Take notice of posted warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- ▶ Know where power lines and equipment are located on the land where you hunt.
- ▶ Never shoot a bird at less than a 45-degree angle.
- ▶ Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.

- ▶ Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.
- ▶ Do not place decoys on power lines or other equipment. Any non-electrical equipment attached to a pole can pose an obstruction and serious hazards to our line crews.

Visit the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources online at dnr.sc.gov/hunting to find out the season scheduled, license requirements and other regulations.



South Carolina's 49 Youth Tourists visited dozens of Washington landmarks, including the White House.

A return to Washington

Co-op sends teens to capital for Youth Tour

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

FOR STUDENTS drawn towards leadership, Washington Youth Tour is the ideal experience.

In June, local teens Jamirika Randall, John Sumter, Jaelyn Shelley and Gracie Lee joined 45 other South Carolina high school students sent by their electric cooperatives on a journey of the nation's capital. The experience went beyond a traditional school field trip. In addition to visiting the city's monuments, museums and memorials, the students started their own co-op, met with legislators and their staffs and made new friends from across the state.

"It felt like it was something that no one else really got to do," Shelley, a student at the Academy of Arts & Sciences, says of visiting Rep. Tom Rice's congressional office and talking with his staff. "I enjoyed sitting down with the staff. We got to ask questions and figure out how we could also further our career

"I don't think I would've gotten that experience somewhere else." — Jamirika Randall

in that field if we wanted to."

The chance to hear directly from Sen. Tim Scott and Sen. Lindsey Graham—the two South Carolina U.S. Senators spoke with the students on the Capitol steps—helped them understand the impact their legislators have in their communities.

"I just thought it was cool how even though they're in Washington, they're still taking care of cooperative members back in their home state," says Gracie Lee, a rising senior at Aynor High School.

"I don't think I would've gotten that experience somewhere else, so that was really amazing," says Randall, a student



PHOTOS BY JOSH P. CROTZER

Capitol Day was one of the many highlights for (from left) Jamirika Randall, John Sumter, Gracie Lee and Jaelyn Shelley on the Washington Youth Tour.

at the Scholars Academy and resident of Little River. "I didn't expect to ask questions because I'm usually kind of quiet, but I asked questions and I learned a lot."



Angie Calhoun (right), one of the trip's chaperones who recently retired from teaching at Conway High School, checks out the pins John Sumter collected. The students traded state pins with Youth Tourists from other states.



From atop the Washington Monument, the city's highest landmark, Jaelyn Shelley could see all of Washington D.C.



Gracie Lee (center) joins in the South Carolina chant the students sang whenever they were around Youth Tour groups from other states.



Jamirika Randall points out the example of South Carolina's stone in the Washington Monument.

Among the many destinations they covered during the six-day adventure, the students visited Mount Vernon, the National Holocaust Memorial Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Museum of the Marine Corps, the 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

"What really stood out to me was the black history museum," says Myrtle Beach's John Sumter, who also attends the Scholars Academy. "It's necessary that we go to these places so we can learn about what happened in the past, so we don't repeat it in the future."

When they went to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the students used pencil and paper to create an etching of names on the wall representing soldiers from their hometowns.

"I didn't realize there were so many names from my hometown," Lee says.

At the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, the students learned about the former president's role in helping to establish electric cooperatives across the nation.

Throughout the trip, the students participated in the Soda Pop Co-op. The co-op sold snacks and beverages to the students. Some of the students served as cooperative board members, others were a part of the management team. As member-consumers, the students each received \$9 in capital

credits, their share of the co-op's end-of-trip margins. The exercise allowed the students to learn first-hand how the not-for-profit co-op business model works.

"It is really amazing what Horry Electric, and all the other South Carolina electric cooperatives are doing," says Sumter. "They're working so hard and they're not even expecting a big paycheck for all they do."

"I'm glad to know that there's a lot of co-ops around," says Shelley. "I'm glad to know that there's something other than corporations."

Due to COVID-19 precautions, the 2022 Washington Youth Tour is the first time in three years South Carolina electric cooperatives have been able to send students to the capital. Horry Electric sponsored Randall, Sumter and Lee. Shelley, the granddaughter of Horry Electric Board of Trustees President Johnny Shelley, was selected from a pool of statewide candidates and sponsored by the South Carolina Electric Cooperative Trustee Association.

"I want to thank Horry Electric very much for the chance to come here and just have new experiences and meet other people," says Randall.

"I thought it was a really great experience for us," says Sumter. "I really hope they continue to send some more people, because this is a life changing experience."

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