



horryelectric.com

MAIN OFFICE
P.O. Box 119
Conway, SC 29528-0119
(843) 369-2211



**TO REPORT
POWER OUTAGES ONLY**
(843) 369-2212

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CO-OP NEWS EDITOR
Jennifer A. Cummings
jennifer.cummings@horryelectric.com

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Horry Electric Cooperative Inc. is a not-for-profit, member-owned organization providing information and energy-related services on a fair and equitable basis.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



A new Horry Electric logo

AFTER DECADES of proudly serving the communities across Horry County, Horry Electric is making a few updates to our logo. This is a design we created in-house

and I'm proud to say it's a look that keeps true to our cooperative roots.

The updated logo includes the South Carolina Palmetto Tree and electric co-op mascot, Willie Wiredhand.

Willie Wiredhand was created in 1950 as the mascot for NRECA. The mascot would serve as a graphical representation of a farmer's hired hand. Willie's body is a wire, with prongs of a plug as his legs, and a lightbulb socket as his head. He wears the thick gloves of a lineworker and he advertised electricity as "the never-tiring, always available hired hand to help the nation's farmers." As the electrification of rural areas throughout our great nation began to take place, Willie Wiredhand was a symbol of hope and promise of a brighter future.

Willie Wiredhand represented a promise that the electric cooperative cared about the community. That it was strong and evolving but would remain steadfast and engaged in the lives of each member it served. Willie Wiredhand encompasses these same promises today. In life, all that matters is our foundation as people and if we forget that, we lose direction.

Those values remain at the heart of Horry Electric Cooperative today. And now, we're proud to feature Willie Wiredhand in our new Horry Electric logo.

We want everyone to know that Horry



Horry Electric will not change the sign on co-op vehicles. The yellow oval decal with Willie Wiredhand has been on HEC vehicles for decades and is a symbol of our history.



The new logo is a refresh of the current logo but adds the South Carolina Palmetto Tree and Willie Wiredhand.

**Horry Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

◀ The current logo displayed on signage, printed materials and uniforms.

Electric continues to operate by the same values and principles as we did back when we first brought electricity to the rural areas of Horry County. Employees past and present have laid a solid foundation. No matter how much we grow or how quickly our county changes, this foundation will remain a cornerstone, supporting us well into the future.

We've made the decision to roll out the new logo gradually. You'll start seeing it on the website and social media first. We'll slowly transition our printed materials (bylaws books, envelopes, etc.), but we want to use the materials we have in house first.

You will continue to see the current logo on uniforms, signage and office buildings for a while. We want to be responsible with our resources, so we'll update these items as needed.

If you ever have questions, contact us at (843) 369-2211.

Rest assured, no matter which version of the logo you see, our mission and commitment to you hasn't changed. We remain committed to delivering safe, affordable and reliable service to you—our members.

Thank you for continuing to place your trust in Horry Electric.

J. REED COOPER, P.E.

Executive Vice President and CEO

September is National Preparedness Month

SEVERE WEATHER can impact Horry County at any time, especially during the peak of hurricane season. Horry Electric is preparing, and members are encouraged to do the same.

September is National Preparedness Month and Horry Electric wants to make sure you stay safe during any storm.

Before the storm

There is power in preparation. Preparing can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency.

- ▶ **Assemble an emergency kit** Put together the essential items you need in the event of a prolonged power outage or natural disaster. Include items such as nonperishable foods, water (one gallon per person, per day), batteries, flashlights, first-aid supplies, medicine and phone chargers.
- ▶ **Protect documents** Store important documents such as birth certificates and property deeds in a safe place away from your home, such as a bank safe deposit box.
- ▶ **Keep pets safe** Create an emergency kit for your pets, too. Include shelf-safe food, bottled water and medication. Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather, and they could wander off. Microchip your pet and ensure your contact information is up to date.
- ▶ **Have cash available** During a power outage, electronic card readers and ATMs may not work. It's a good idea to have cash on hand for emergencies. Also, make sure you have a full tank of gas in your vehicle.

During the storm

Once a storm moves into the area, stay tuned in to local news stations for up-to-date information on the storm. In the event of a natural disaster, remember:

- ▶ Stay away from windows and doors.
- ▶ Get to higher ground or a second level of your home if flooding occurs.
- ▶ Do not use any electrical appliances, outlets, switches, etc. if flooding occurs.
- ▶ If possible, avoid driving. If you have to be on the roads, stay clear of flooded roadways.
- ▶ Stay away from downed power lines. All downed lines should be treated as if they were energized and potentially deadly.

After the storm

Once the storm has passed, report all outages and downed power lines immediately. There are five ways to report an outage:

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

If a hurricane is forecast, take steps to be ready for its fury. A hurricane can be dangerous regardless of its projected size or strength.

- 1. Know the risks where you live.**
Hurricanes can travel up to 200 miles inland, causing torrential rains and flooding.
- 2. Know how to get out.**
You may have to leave quickly, so know your evacuation routes. Practice them ahead of time.
- 3. Make an emergency plan.**
Go to [Ready.gov/plan](https://www.ready.gov/plan) to map out the steps you will take to prepare for a hurricane.
- 4. Be in the know.**
Receive alerts in several ways, such as via the FEMA app and community alerts.
- 5. Help your neighbors.**
Check in with neighbors, senior adults or others who might need help.
- 6. Strengthen your home.**
Declutter drains and gutters, bring in outside furniture and close and secure hurricane shutters.
- 7. Gather supplies.**
Gather supplies, including medications, flashlights and batteries, water and non-perishable food.
- 8. Don't forget furry friends and other pets.**
Gather supplies for them, too. Collect all supplies, whether for humans or pets, in a go bag or car trunk.
- 9. Get tech ready.**
Keep your cell phone fully charged. Purchase and charge back-up portable power packs.

For more information, visit:

**Safe
Electricity.org®**

Source: FEMA's Ready Campaign

- ▶ Text "OUT" to MyOutage at 1 (844) 369-2767.
- ▶ Call PowerTouch at (843) 369-2212.
- ▶ Download the HEC Mobile app.
- ▶ Visit MyEnergy Online.
- ▶ Text "OUTAGE" to 352-667.

If your power is out, leave on a single light to alert you when service is restored. If you're cleaning up debris, do not put it near any electric utility equipment (poles, transformers, junction boxes, etc.).

For more information on storm preparedness or generator safety, visit the Outage Center on [horryelectric.com](https://www.horryelectric.com).

Keep food safe before, during and after a storm

Storm and hurricane season can bring power outages. While extended power outages are rare, it's important to understand how to keep your food safe and avoid illness. Here are a few food safety tips to keep in mind before, during and after an outage.

Before the storm

- ▶ Use appliance thermometers in your refrigerator and freezer. Safe temps: 40 degrees (refrigerator), 0 degrees (freezer).
- ▶ Freeze water containers to help maintain cold temperatures.
- ▶ Keep coolers, ice packs or ice ready in case of extended outages.
- ▶ Consider filling plastic containers with water, leaving an inch of space inside each one, to help keep food cold if the power goes out.
- ▶ Stock up on ready-to-eat foods that don't need refrigeration including bottled water, canned goods such as veggies, fruits, beans and tuna (have a can opener available), instant mashed potatoes or oatmeal for carbs and energy, crackers and nuts, dry cereal and powdered milk.

During an outage

In the event of a storm, start by eating perishable foods and items from the refrigerator. Following that, turn your attention to the freezer, then begin using nonperishable foods and essential staples. Here are ways to preserve food as long as possible:

- ▶ Keep doors closed. A fridge keeps food safe for up to four hours; a full freezer, up to 48 hours.
- ▶ Use a cooler if the power is out for more than four hours. Layer frozen items with fridge foods and ice for a more consistent temperature.
- ▶ If you don't have a cooler, you can use your freezer. Put ice in bowls and place them around the food to prevent melting ice from flooding your freezer. Use blankets to insulate the freezer but ensure that air vents are unobstructed.
- ▶ Monitor temperatures with a thermometer. Food must stay below 40 degrees to stay safe.
- ▶ Never taste food to test safety. If it smells, looks or feels off—throw it out.

MORE THAN A FEW CANS OF SOUP...

Which Foods Are In Your Emergency Kit?



THE FOOD IN YOUR EMERGENCY KIT SHOULD:

- Have a long storage life.
- Require little or no cooking, water or refrigeration.
- Include nourishment for infants and toddlers if applicable.
- Meet special dietary needs.
- Include the needs of pets if you have them.

WATER AND PREP ITEMS

Include in your supplies:

- One gallon of water per person per day to last at least three days.
- A manual can opener and cooking supplies.
- Indoor warming methods, such as chafing dishes and fondue pots.

EMERGENCY STASH

Plan for several days' worth of food for each person in your household. Edible items could include:

- Canned meats, fruits and vegetables.
- Grains, such as crackers and multigrain cereals.
- Protein or fruit bars.
- Dried fruit.
- Peanut butter.
- Canned soups, meats and beans.
- Powdered milk.
- Dried meat/jerky.
- Oatmeal or breakfast bars.

BE PREPARED TO KEEP THOSE YOU LOVE SAFE, NOURISHED AND HYDRATED DURING AN EMERGENCY.

Safe Electricity.org[®] Learn more at:

Sources: FEMA and CDC

SAFE ELECTRICITY

- ▶ Don't use food that contacted floodwater unless it is in waterproof packaging.

After power is restored

Frozen food is safe if it still contains ice crystals or has stayed under 40 degrees. Don't refreeze or cook food that got too warm. Throw out anything questionable.

Use the U.S. Department of Agriculture's guide on [foodsafety.gov](https://www.foodsafety.gov) to learn more about foods you can keep or should throw out after a power outage. Staying prepared can help you avoid illness, waste and added stress during a storm.

Investing in bright futures

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

A VISIT TO the governor's office, lessons in public speaking and a Q&A session with a state legislator seems like a jam-packed summer.

But thanks to Horry Electric and South Carolina's electric cooperatives, five local high school students experienced those things and more in the span of just four days.

In July, John Pratt, Kylee Whittington, Lilly Sheets, Ava Braziel and Riley Batson represented Horry Electric at Cooperative Youth Summit, an exploration of the state's capital, civic engagement and the cooperative business model.

"This was a very real opportunity for me," says Pratt, a student at Horry County Scholars Academy High School, who wants to have a career in politics and journalism. "I've grown a lot and I've figured out what I want to do in life."

The students, 51 in all from across the state, learned about South Carolina's contribution to space exploration at the South Carolina State Museum, met with some of Gov. Henry McMaster's top advisers in his office at the State House, and were exposed to the importance of safety around electricity at the CEEUS facility in West Columbia. CEEUS is the materials supplier for the state's electric cooperatives.

"I learned a lot at the CEEUS warehouse," says Whittington, also a student at Scholars Academy. "It was nice to see everything in action and what lineworkers do to keep themselves safe."

Cooperative Youth Summit isn't just about visiting interesting places and meeting interesting people. An important objective of the annual program is to develop students to be leaders in their communities and to learn about the role co-ops play in those communities.

Guided by former television personality and co-op executive Lou Green, the students worked in teams to

develop presentations related to current political and cultural debates such as regulating artificial intelligence and subsidizing electric vehicles. Each group took a stance on the issues in front of their peers and a panel of independent judges. The students on the highest-scoring team were awarded \$1,000 each.

Youth Summit students also learned about civic engagement and government from John Frick, the vice president of government relations at the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina. Frick taught them about how government works and challenged the students to "keep the republic," referencing Benjamin Franklin's iconic response to a colonial woman inquiring whether her new nation was a monarchy or a republic. Franklin answered, "A republic

madam, if you can keep it."

S.C. state Rep. Micah Caskey answered questions from the students and encouraged them to consider public service in their futures.

"We don't sponsor local students on Cooperative Youth Summit just to give them a memorable summer experience," says Horry Electric Youth Summit Coordinator Jennifer Cummings. "It's an investment, meant to have longer, future benefits. It builds pathways of opportunity for young people in our community, and when their light turns on, everyone's future is bright."

WANT TO GO NEXT SUMMER? High school sophomores and juniors interested in participating in Cooperative Youth Summit or Washington Youth Tour in 2026 are encouraged to visit ecsc.org/youth.



This summer, Horry Electric sent (from left) Annette Harris (employee, chaperone), Lilly Sheets, Kylee Whittington, Ava Braziel, John Pratt, Riley Batson and Beth Rabon (employee, chaperone) to Cooperative Youth Summit in Columbia.

JOSH P. CROTZER



John Pratt and the other 50 Cooperative Youth Summit students helped the South Carolina WIRE chapter pack 500 bags of essentials for deserving children as part of their Kids Closet initiative. WIRE is a statewide community service organization of the state's electric cooperatives.



PHOTOS BY JOSH P. CROTZER

Ava Brazier (foreground) joined other students on rides in various electric vehicles, including a Tesla Cybertruck.



CANYON DURHAM

Lilly Sheets of Galivants Ferry saw how CEEUS, the electric cooperatives' materials supplier, tests lineworkers' personal protective equipment, such as rubber gloves.



CANYON DURHAM

Kylee Whittington chats with fellow Cooperative Youth Summit students before entering the governor's office.



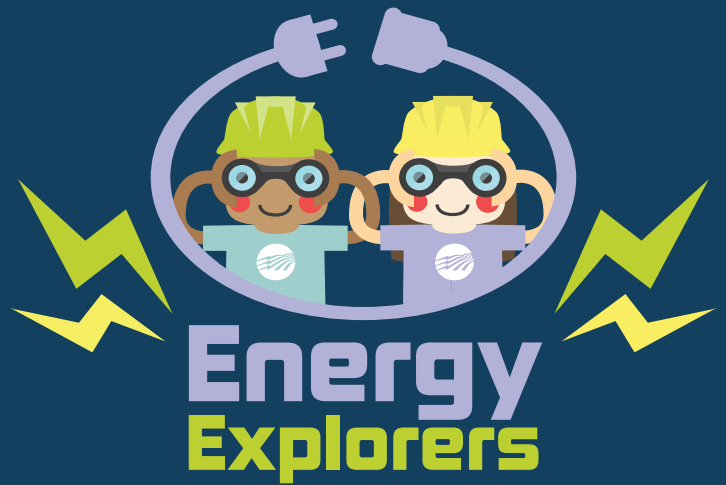
The core objectives of Cooperative Youth Summit are learning and development, with trips to the S.C. State Museum for students like Riley Batson of Conway.

PREPAREDNESS MONTH WORD SEARCH

Did you know September is National Preparedness Month? There are several ways you and your family can be prepared for an emergency.

Read the tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.

(Use the word bank as a guide.)



PREPAREDNESS TIPS:

Keep a list of emergency **phone numbers** in a location that's easy to find.

Learn about different types of **emergency alerts** and understand what they mean.

Make an emergency **kit** that includes items like flashlights, batteries, water, non-perishable food and a First Aid Kit.

Designate a **safe area** in your home in the event of a severe storm. This should be an area in the center of the home, away from windows.

Make sure **smoke alarms** are installed on every floor of your home and outside bedrooms. Test alarms every month to ensure they're working properly.

S	T	R	E	L	A	F	P	E	G	P	R	J	M	H
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V	T	Y	Q	U	R	D	V	R	A	N	R	P	T	R
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E	C	U	T	G	Z	B	B	B	I	O	Y	J	M	N
A	Y	M	T	Z	I	G	K	Z	Q	N	B	Y	L	S

WORD BANK: phone numbers, emergency, alerts, kit, safe area, smoke alarms

