

EXPLORE IT, ADORE IT AND SAVE!



In partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, Slope Electric Cooperative is once again making excursions to Medora more affordable for families.

This summer, our members are eligible for a 15% discount on the following reservations:

- Tickets to the Medora Musical
- Pitchfork Steak Fondue

- Gospel Brunch tickets
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- Old Town Theater shows
- Lodging at the Badlands Motel, Elkhorn Quarters, Rough Riders Hotel and Medora Campground

Touchstone Energy® members can use the code, TOUCH2023, for the discount. The code is good for reservations by phone, website or in person.

Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.

OUTLOOK

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Slope Electric announces Youth Tour winners

For many teens, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is full of “firsts.” It may be the first time they left the state, flew on a plane, visited the nation’s capital or have been away from their family for an extended period of time. Even more are seeing and experiencing the larger world through their own eyes, rather than through another perspective.

The Youth Tour sprang from a suggestion by former Sen. Lyndon Johnson for a national gathering of co-ops. Johnson felt youth from rural areas would benefit by visiting Washington, D.C., to see firsthand how government works and gain a wider perspective through the experience. From this idea, the Youth Tour evolved. High school sophomores and juniors selected by their electric co-ops participate in a weeklong trip to the nation’s capital. The program has grown exponentially since its inception. This year, more than 1,800 high school students will participate from co-ops in 44 states.

North Dakota sends a delegation of 15 students. These students are selected by their cooperative and chosen through an essay writing contest. This year’s question was, “What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?”

Through this contest, Slope Electric has selected two winners: Julia Dalley from Hettinger, and Julie Sarsland from Rhame.

Meet Julia

Julia, the daughter of Caleb and Mindy Dalley, is a junior at Hettinger High School.

“I learned about the Youth Tour from my mom. She told me about this essay and I honestly thought it was a long shot that I would win, but she always believed in me and encouraged me to try my best,” Julia said.

With encouragement from her mom and her history teacher, Julia applied and was one of two winners.

“My favorite subject in school is history, for sure.

I like all history, but women’s history and the Revolutionary War pique my interest especially. I help out with the fifth-grade history class at my high school and it is always a wild time. I absolutely love helping there and seeing all the different perspectives and quirks each kid has,” she said.



Julia Dalley

Julia is currently Student Council president and participates in the Science Olympiad, Acalympics, Quiz Bowl and various other activities.

She has not been to Washington, D.C., and is excited for the opportunity.

“I am super excited to see all the different monuments. My other history teacher, Mr. Kohler, has really hyped up a bunch of the monuments and museums for me! I think the Korean War monument is super cool and I also want to be able to see the Lincoln Memorial and, if at all possible, the statue of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune in the National Statuary Hall, because she is a total girl boss,” Julia said.

Julia’s winning essay:

If I could be a part of any event in U.S. history, it would be Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s (FDR) New Deal.

Never before in U.S. history had there been such a group of powerhouses all working together, save it be the Constitutional Convention, and that is what is so fascinating about the New Deal. Each person who was recruited by FDR served an individual and

extremely important purpose in rebuilding our country after the devastation of the Great Depression.

Many boundaries were pushed and even broken during the New Deal, leading to an entirely different, reformed America. It brought many firsts to this country, and we still can see the positive effects put in place during this time period today. I think the best part about being a part of the New Deal would be to work around some of the hardworking, creative minds that helped bring our country out of the Great Depression.

For instance, the starter of the New Deal, FDR, is known across America for his quickness rising to the call of the needs of the Americans who suffered from the Great Depression. In fact, he was so eager to serve his country that the day after he was inaugurated, he began helping the economic status of America. Throughout the first 100 days after his inauguration, he introduced 77 bills and 12 laws. From then on, presidents began to be judged on their first 100 days in office. This was not the only precedent he set, however. FDR was the first president to address the entirety of America frequently, which he did with his radio-broadcasted "fireside chats." He was also the first president to have a physical disability and the first to select a woman for his presidential cabinet.

Like her husband, Eleanor Roosevelt was also a person of many firsts. She was the first First Lady who spoke frequently to the general public and had her own programs. She first demonstrated her down-to-earth personality by spending time with and comforting the protesting Bonus Army. The first First Lady press conference was held by Eleanor as well. She truly demonstrated what a First Lady should be like, and ever since her, every First Lady of the U.S. has had their own program or project and press conferences, which takes after Eleanor Roosevelt.

Another powerful woman in FDR's New Deal was Frances Perkins, the first woman to be in the presidential cabinet. Perkins, appointed as

Secretary of Labor, was a strong worker's rights advocate. With her working on the New Deal, laws regarding child labor, unemployment insurance, women's work weeks and minimum wage were introduced.

Last, but most certainly not least, was a woman by the name of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune. Dr. Bethune was a women's suffrage and civil rights activist as well as an educator. She held voting registration drives for people afraid of persecution for voting and founded a school, now known as the Bethune-Cookman College. Under FDR, who selected her as the leader of his "Black Cabinet," she became the highest ranked African American woman in the government. She later became the vice president of the NAACP and the only woman of color at the founding conference of the United Nations. In recent years, she has been honored with a state statue in the National Statuary Hall Collection at the U.S. Capitol, making her the first African American represented there.

Although, unlike these other ground-breaking people and innovations, my ideal contribution is not a first for America. If I could have contributed to the New Deal, I would want to be a part of the Federal Art Project (FAP), which paid around 10,000 artists nationwide to make visual art. I love expressing myself creatively and think my talents would have translated best working for the FAP. This, coupled with my love of history, draws my attention to the subject of the Great Depression. Many artists working for the FAP were paid to document the Great Depression, such as photographer Dorothea Lange. Out of all the major changes that took place in the New Deal, I would want to be a part of the one documenting and recording the raw, unfiltered history of America for future generations to learn about.

Meet Julie

Julie Sarsland, the daughter of Jennifer and Curt Sarsland, is a sophomore at Bowman High School. She was encouraged to apply for the

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2023 Youth Tour after her brother, Caleb, came back raving about his 2022 Youth Tour trip.

“He had so much fun and came back with funny stories that really pushed me to take the time to apply for the trip,” Julie said.

She hasn’t been to Washington, D.C., so it is somewhere she has always wanted to visit.

“I have always thought it would be really neat to visit. There are so many historical monuments that are important to our country in D.C. and it is the capital of our nation, so I feel it is important to visit,” she said.

Julie enjoys exploring the outdoors, and traveling to new places with her family. In addition, she also participates in basketball, cross-country, track and field, student council, band, choir, Lutheran Youth Organization and more!

Julie’s winning essay:

Living on a farm, my family and I have been through a few droughts that made us uncertain if we would be able to feed all our cattle, but we have always had enough food on the table for ourselves. The long 10-year Dust Bowl that left many people to suffer or die is undoubtedly a period of time I would have wanted to prevent by providing farmers with the necessary education to survive.

The Dust Bowl, which occurred in the Great Plains during the 1930s, forced numerous farmers to leave their land in search of work, because their crops were failing. This region of the United States experienced a mixture of high winds and little moisture, causing severe dust storms that killed many people and livestock. Regular rainfall only returned to these states at the end of 1939, ending the Dust Bowl, but many lingering effects remained.

In the decades to follow, many changes were made to conserve farmland by restraining soil erosion, but if these changes were made sooner, it could have stopped this destruction from occurring in the first place. Before the Dust Bowl

era, to keep up with the high demand for wheat and other crops, farmers over-plowed their land, leaving bare farmland without many native grasses to hold the soil in place. I would have provided courses about the benefits of crop rotation, no-till farming and cover crops to help persuade farmers to better preserve the soil.



Julie Sarland

Because the drought was the main reason for the Dust Bowl, I would have also taught farmers about irrigation. There were many rivers running through the Great Plains that could have been used to water these farmers’ crops. One of the ways farmers could bring water to their fields from rivers was by irrigation ditches. Irrigation ditches were usually a set of pipes or ditches that would use the flow of the river to divert that water to a field. Wells could have also been drilled to use during years of drought. These wells could have been dug in the many underground aquifers, including the massive Ogallala Aquifer that stretches from South Dakota to Texas.

Additionally, farmers knew little about the region’s climate. There was a sequence of wet years during the 1920s that led farmers to falsely believe the area would continue to produce an abundance of wheat. To end this misconception, I would have learned about the climate of the area by observing the plants that grew in these states. By studying the plants, one could learn about the consistency of precipitation and temperature in the area. Another way to learn more about the climate in the Great

Plains would be to question the people who had already been living there. This way, I could go directly to the source to learn about these states and spread the word to the new farmers.

In conclusion, the Dust Bowl era was a harsh time in history I would have liked to prevent by spreading the knowledge of helpful farming tactics to the inexperienced farmers leading up to the 1930s. If I could have taught these farmers to preserve the soil by using the many agricultural practices we use today, it would have lessened the devastation from these years of drought. By using irrigation systems, the farmers could have given their fields an extra

boost they needed to yield crops. Finally, farmers should have been informed of the semi-arid climate of the Great Plains to be ready for the dry years ahead.

To prevent the Dust Bowl, I would have provided the new settlers with some guidance during the early 1900s to prepare them for farming in the Great Plains region. This subject is meaningful to me, as I love my life with the cattle, gravel roads and fields that go on for miles. I cannot imagine our family being forced to leave the countryside we love so dearly as many families had to do during the Dust Bowl era. ■

Report from **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Regular meeting held at the Slope Electric office in New England

- Approved agenda
- Approved minutes from previous meeting on March 30
- Heard co-general managers/ CEO update
- Heard WDUS/3C updates
- Heard Basin Electric Cooperative updates
- Heard CFO report
- Heard operations report
- Heard member relations summary
- Heard the attorney report
- Reviewed board member reports



Manager's message:

Spotting potential electrical hazards



Jason Bentz

Electricity plays many roles in our lives, from powering baby monitors, cellphones and lighting, to operating HVAC systems and appliances. We get so comfortable with electricity's instant availability, we expect most systems or devices to do the job when we flip a switch.

Now is a great time to look for electrical hazards around your home.

Remember, every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. While we can extend their operations with maintenance and care, none of them are designed to last or work forever. When electricity is involved, failures can present electrical hazards that might be avoided with periodic inspections.

Ground-fault circuit interrupters

Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room often include ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, then break the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years, but they can wear out in five years or less in areas prone to electrical storms or power surges. Check them frequently and be sure to contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

Loose or damaged outlets or switches

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

Surge protectors

Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment, like televisions, home entertainment systems and computer components, from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules, and surge protectors are rated for the number

of joules they can effectively absorb. If your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, it should be replaced when it hits or passes that limit. When the limit is reached, protection stops, and you're left with a basic power strip.

Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they've stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

Extension cords

If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. With a growing number of electrical devices connecting your family to the services you get from Roughrider Electric Cooperative, having enough outlets in just the right spots can be challenging. Remember, extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional or periodic use.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it shows any signs of frayed, cracked or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance. And always make sure extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in annual property damage.

Electricity is an essential necessity for modern living, and Slope Electric is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to all of our members. We hope you'll keep these electrical safety tips in mind so you can note any potential hazards before damage occurs. ■





Q&A on electric vehicles

You've likely heard or read that most automakers are transitioning many or all of their new vehicles to electric-only models over the next 10 years. Regardless of the type of car you drive today, the electrification of the transportation sector is underway.

As we receive inquiries about electric vehicles from Slope Electric Cooperative members, we thought it would be helpful to respond to some of those frequently asked questions in this month's issue of *North Dakota Living*.

Q: Why is Slope communicating about electric vehicles?

A: It's no secret that consumer interest in electric vehicles (EVs) is growing, and Slope Electric is providing information about EVs so our members can make informed decisions when considering an EV purchase.

Q: Can I charge my EV using an existing outlet or do I need a special outlet?

A: All EVs come with a 110-volt-compatible (Level 1) charging unit, which can be plugged into any standard household outlet. For an eight-hour overnight charge, this will enable traveling 36 to 40 miles a day. If you typically drive longer distances or are in a hurry, a Level 2 charger takes about half the time and provides about 180 miles of range over an eight-hour charging period. A Level 2 charger must be installed by a licensed electrician.

Q: Does the outside temperature affect the range of an EV?

A: Outside temperatures, particularly colder

weather, can impact the range of an EV. Unlike a gas-powered vehicle, where the heat is mostly coming from the engine, an EV must produce cabin heat and manage an optimal battery temperature with energy that comes from the battery, which can reduce battery range.

Q: Should I let my co-op know if I plan to purchase an EV?

A: If you plan to purchase an EV, please let us know so we can better serve you. As more Slope Electric members look to buy EVs, it's helpful to know where they're located in our area, so we can ensure we have the necessary infrastructure in place to meet charging needs.

As your local energy provider, Slope Electric is best suited to advise and help our members and local businesses plan for the electric vehicle future.

Please reach out to Slope Electric before purchasing a charger, as it could have a large impact on your electric bill and may not be supported by Slope Electric's existing infrastructure. ■

Safety Starts with ME: Down and dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.

If you are in an accident with a utility pole, your vehicle may be charged with electricity. If this is the case and you step out of the car, you will become the electricity's path to the ground and could be electrocuted. Loose wires and other equipment may be in contact with your car or near it, creating a risk for electrocution if you leave the vehicle.

"While downed lines can sometimes reveal they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs that they are live, but they are just as lethal," said Jon Lawhead, a journeyman lineworker with Slope Electric Cooperative.

After an accident, stay in the car and tell others to do the same. If you come upon an accident or see downed power lines, do not approach the accident scene. If you see someone approaching, warn them to stay away, as a downed power line energizes the ground up to 35 feet away. Call 911 to notify emergency personnel and utility services. Do not leave your vehicle until a utility professional has told you it is safe to do so.

If you're in an accident, the safest place to be is almost always inside the car. The only



circumstance when you should exit the vehicle is if it is on fire, and those instances are rare. If you must exit the vehicle, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Continue to "bunny hop" with your feet together to safety. Doing this will ensure you are at only one point of contact and will not have different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another, which can be deadly.

If Lawhead could give members one piece of advice it would be, "Always stay away from downed power lines, as they can be very dangerous." ■



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