

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Youth Leadership Congress

UW- River Falls • July 15-17, 2015

The WECA Youth Leadership Congress is a dynamic three-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills and to learn about the purpose, operation and scope of cooperative business.



Who should apply?

Students that will be going into 10th, 11th or 12th grade next fall and have parents or grandparents that are members of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

What does it cost?

All registration costs, including food, lodging, speaker fees, conference t-shirt, education materials and transportation are covered by Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

The purpose of this conference is to:

- Introduce the structure of cooperative business.
- Examine the scope of electric cooperatives and how they affect everyday life.

- Demonstrate the power and value of cooperation.
- Help identify and develop leadership skills.
- Provide a forum for teenagers to discuss issues and solutions important to them.
- Bring together youth leaders from across Wisconsin.
- Provide an opportunity for students to experience college life.

Application deadline is June 16, 2015.

***Yes, I would like to attend the 2015 Youth Leadership Congress
July 15-17 at UW- River Falls.***

Name: _____

Parent or guardian: _____

Address: _____

Telephone no.: _____

Email: _____

Highschool: _____ Grade Next Fall: _____

***Please return this form to SREC, 231 N. Sheridan St., Lancaster, WI 53813
SREC must receive information by June 16th***

National Electrical Safety Month

Daily Social Media Tips

- Tip 1:** Little ones should always ask an adult for help when plugging or removing cords from an outlet.
- Tip 2:** Bulb wattage matters! Light bulbs with wattages that are too high for the light fixture can overheat the fixture, causing a fire hazard. (ESFI)
- Tip 3:** Do you have little ones in the home? Make sure your loved ones are protected by installing tamper-resistant receptacles. (Occupational Safety and Health Admin)
- Tip 4:** Surge protectors for cable and phone jacks provide protection for your computer modem, TV and phone. (ESFI)
- Tip 5:** Entertainment centers and computer equipment are pricey items for the home! Make sure to leave plenty of space around these items for proper ventilation. (OSHA)
- Tip 6:** Working outdoors? Play it safe and use a wooden or fiberglass ladder. Remember to keep a minimum of 10 feet between the ladder and power lines. (National Fire Protection Association)
- Tip 7:** NEVER touch anyone or anything that's in contact with a downed power line! Power lines may be live, so it's best to stay a safe distance away. (NFPA)
- Tip 8:** Smoke detectors in your home should be tested every month to ensure they are properly working. (ESFI)
- Tip 9:** Never place extension cords in high traffic areas, under carpets or across walkways, where they pose a potential tripping hazard. (OSHA)
- Tip 10:** Using a window A/C unit? Before installation, make sure the electrical circuit and the outlet are able to handle the load. Large units should have their own separate electrical circuit so the system is not overloaded.
- Tip 11:** When you're cooking up a storm in the kitchen, remember to set a timer to remind yourself to check on food that is simmering or in the oven. Always double check to make sure burners and appliances are turned off when you're done. (ESFI)
- Tip 12:** How well do you know your home's electrical system? Make a map showing which fuse or circuit breaker controls each switch, light or outlet. (ESFI)
- Tip 13:** Smoke detectors should be installed in every bedroom, outside of each sleeping area and on every level of your home. (ESFI)
- Tip 14:** If you're working outdoors in a damp location, inspect all electrical cords and equipment being used. Make sure they are in good condition and free of defects – and remember to use a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) if possible. (OSHA)
- Tip 15:** Recurring tripped circuit breakers or multiple blown fuses? This can signify a serious and dangerous electrical problem! Contact a licensed electrician immediately.
- Tip 16:** Lamps are great accents for our homes – make sure to place them on level surfaces, away from items that are flammable. (NFPA)
- Tip 17:** Flickering or dimming lights? This could mean bigger problems ahead. Contact a qualified electrician to check your home's wiring.
- Tip 18:** Frayed or damaged extension cords are dangerous and should never be used. Damage to the cord can expose wires and cause fire and shock hazards.
- Tip 19:** Do you have a wobbling ceiling fan? This can wear out the fan's motor over time. Turn off the fan and tighten the screws to correct the problem.
- Tip 20:** Power strips are great – but relying on them too much can be a problem! You may need to install more outlets in your home. Call a qualified electrician for help. (ESFI)
- Tip 21:** Any time you see an overhead power line – you should assume the line is energized, even if the wire is down or appears to be insulated.
- Tip 22:** For outdoor equipment, use lighting and power tools that have the label of an independent test laboratory, and make sure they're made for outdoor use. (NFPA)
- Tip 23:** Flying a kite is great for outdoor fun! But remember to always be mindful of overhead power lines. (Safe Electricity)
- Tip 24:** Never throw water on an electrical fire! This may seem obvious, but in the heat of the moment,

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May is National Electrical Safety Month

More than 30,000 electric shock accidents occur every year.
Always remember to use extreme caution with electrical items.



Putting safety first this month – and throughout the year

It's May – and Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is celebrating National Electrical Safety Month. While safety for our members is top priority year-round, Electrical Safety Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of safety excellence.

This year, we're focusing on electrical safety in the home. Electricity is the cause of over 140,000 fires each year, resulting in more than 500 deaths, 4,000 injuries and 1.6 billion in property damage, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

There are many measures you can take to ensure the safety of your loved ones. Use these helpful tips from ESFI to safeguard your home.

In the kitchen

- Vacuum refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that can reduce efficiency and create fire hazards.
- Ensure all countertop appliances are located away from the sink.
- All appliance cords should be placed away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.
- The top and the area above the cooking range should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns.

Light the way to safety

- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home

should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.

- Check lamp cords to make sure they are in good condition – not damaged or cracked. Do not attempt to repair damaged cords yourself. Take any item with a damaged power cord to an authorized repair center.
- Extension cords should not be used to provide power on a long-term or permanent basis. Have additional receptacles installed by a professional to provide power where needed.

Be prepared

- Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced at least once a year – or sooner if indicated in the manufacturers' instructions. All smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years.
- Talk to your family about an emergency plan in the event of a fire in your home. If you have small children, include them in planning an emergency escape route – they are more likely to remember the plan if they're involved in creating it.

Electrical safety awareness and education can save lives. For more tips and information about electrical safety, visit www.esfi.org. ■

continued. . . Daily Social Media Tips

grabbing a bucket of water to extinguish the fire can be tempting. Use your chemical fire extinguisher instead. (Popular Mechanics)

Tip 25: Install light bulbs with extended lifespans in hard-to-reach locations to limit the number of times you have to climb a ladder, move furniture or otherwise engage in potentially dangerous activities. (ESFI)

Tip 26: Remember: Power strips and surge suppressors do not provide more power to a location, only more access to the same limited capacity of the circuit into which it is connected. (ESFI)

Tip 27: All switches and lighting equipment should bear the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as UL, Intertek, or CSA. (ESFI)

Tip 28: When cooking in the kitchen, remember to keep appliance cords away from hot surfaces like the oven range or toaster. (ESFI)

Tip 29: DIY project for the home? Always turn off the power to the circuit that you plan to work on by switching off the circuit breaker in the main service panel.

Tip 30: Use covers on outdoor power outlets, especially near swimming pools. Keep cords and electrical devices away from the water, and never handle electrical items before you've dried off. (ESFI)

Tip 31: When using a portable generator, make sure the extension cords used are rated for the load, are free of cuts or frays and have three-pronged plugs. (ESFI)

Recipes

Thank you Rita Kruser (Cuba City) for your Beef Short Ribs recipe! She said that “you will find these ribs to be “melt-in-your-mouth” short ribs! And they brown beautifully from the quick and easy ingredients.”

Beef Short Ribs

- 3 lbs Beef Short Ribs, cut in individual pieces
- 2 Tbsp. Brown Sugar, packed
- 3 Cloves Garlic, minced
- 1 tsp. Dried Thyme Leaves, crushed
- ¼ c. All Purpose Flour
- 1 (10.5oz) can French Onion Soup
- 1 bottle (12 oz) Dark Ale or Beer



Put the ribs, brown sugar, garlic and thyme in a 3-1/2 to 6 quart slow cooker. Sprinkle with flour and toss to coat.

Stir the soup and ale in a small bowl. Pour over the ribs. Cover and cook on low for 8-10 hours or on high for 4-5 hours, until the meat is fork-tender. Remove ribs from the cooker with a fork or kitchen tongs to a serving platter. Spoon off any fat from the sauce. Pour the sauce over the ribs and serve with hot mashed potatoes or buttered noodles.

Thank you Cathy Skaife (Platteville) for your Suet Recipe for birds! She says “My husband and I enjoy feeding the birds and this recipe appeals to a variety of birds.”

Suet for Birds

- 1 c. Lard or leftover grease from cooking
- 1 c. Peanut Butter
- 2 c. Rolled Oats
- 1/3 c. Sugar
- 1 c. Birdseed
- 2 c. Cornmeal
- ½ c. Raisins



Slowly heat the lard or grease and peanut butter to soften them. Then add remaining ingredients. Place scoops of the mixture in small plastic bags, flatten and store in the freezer. I also add egg shells to the mixture. The birds love it. Place in suet holders and hang outside.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Keep cool this summer!
ENERGY STAR certified refrigerators are about 9-10 percent more energy efficient than models that meet the federal minimum energy efficiency standard.

Source: EnergyStar.gov

Vegetation Management

Zielies Tree Service, Inc. will be working on the Mt Hope substation in Grant County. And depending on the weather, they may start spraying on the Mt Zion and Soldiers Grove substations in Crawford County.

It is important for SREC to maintain its rights-of-way for the following reasons:

- Accessibility for field crews, vehicles and equipment
- Fire prevention
- Reliable electric service
- Quality service with the reduction of outages and blinks
- Safety for workers and the public
- Meeting state and federal code requirements

On a daily basis, SREC employees and contractors are working throughout the area, at times on your property, to operate and maintain the electric system and our rights-of-ways. We appreciate your cooperation. If you have questions, please contact Jay at jgardner@srec.net or call 800-236-2141, ext. 566.

WATT'S HAPPENING

Watt's Happening is published monthly as an information service to the member-owners of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Any questions or comments can be directed to *Watt's Happening*, c/o Heidi Pierce, Editor, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free Lancaster 800-236-2141, Darlington 800-236-6656, and Gays Mills 888-735-4314.

www.sre.coop

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