

CHELCO NEWS

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JULY 2024 | VOL. 29 NO. 7

Youth Tour tradition continues in Washington, D.C.



Pictured above (back L-R): CHELCO Youth Tour representatives Asher Kimbrough, Jack Beauchamp, (front L-R) Jonas Mosley and Emery Hagan visit the U.S. Capitol.

In a co-op tradition that has been going strong since the late 1950s, more than 1,600 students from 44 states descended upon Washington, D.C., June 16-21 for Youth Tour. These students are co-op members from around the country who were selected to represent their cooperatives in the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association's (NRECA) flagship youth engagement program.

CHELCO was proud to have four representatives, or "delegates" as we refer to them, in our nation's capital for Youth Tour: Jack Beauchamp (Niceville H.S.), Emery Hagan (Paxton School), Asher Kimbrough (Crestview H.S.) and Jonas Mosley (Rocky Bayou Christian School).

These four students received the highest scores in a video contest

as reviewed and ranked by three impartial judges not affiliated with CHELCO, but familiar with the Youth Tour program.

While the group visited several historic sites, the Youth Tour is more than just a sightseeing trip to Washington, D.C. Students get to meet with elected officials, learn the history and importance of America's electric cooperatives, and make lifelong friends and memories.

For those interested in participating in Youth Tour, applications are sent to guidance counselors in November each year and are available at [CHELCO.com](https://www.chelco.com). To participate, students must be high school juniors, and their parents must be members of CHELCO.

Learn more by visiting our website at [CHELCO.com/youth-tour](https://www.chelco.com/youth-tour).



A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

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Did you know...

CHELCO offers free educational programs tailored to various audiences. Programs include our popular Live Line Demonstration, which uses a life-sized mock-up to demonstrate the danger of power lines and educate viewers on safety, and the House of Pressure to show how science and air movement affect the efficiency of a home. For more information, visit [chelco.com/education-programs](https://www.chelco.com/education-programs).



CEO Insights: Five things you should know about power restoration

As we are now in hurricane season, as well as the unofficial “thunderstorm-every-afternoon” season, I thought this month’s column would be an opportunity to share some helpful information about our outage restoration process. Here are five things to keep in mind when the lights go out.

1. We need you. When your power goes out, it might be just at your home or a small section of your neighborhood. While our outage management software is state-of-the-art, notifying us automatically by our metering system, it is still a good idea to let us know when your power goes out. To report outages, call us at (800) 342-0990, visit our website at CHELCO.com, or download the MyCHELCO app, both of which have convenient outage reporting tools.

2. It’s a team effort. When you are faced with an outage, our focus is on safely restoring power as quickly as possible. During widespread outages, we have all hands on deck, fielding calls, surveying damage, clearing hazards, keeping everyone informed and rebuilding damaged lines to get your power back on as soon as we can.

3. We prioritize the largest outages first. During widespread outages, our focus is on safely restoring power to as many members as we can as quickly as possible. This means that our crews will prioritize largest outages first and will work until every member has been restored.

4. You should have a backup plan. We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a back-up plan.

Remember, we don’t always know how long restoration efforts will take. If you’re unsure what to do, please call your emergency services.

5. Sometimes it’s a waiting game. We work diligently to restore power to our members when our lines and equipment is damaged, but sometimes, it’s out of our control. If a major transmission line goes down, which is rare, we must first wait for those repairs to be made before we can energize our substations.

We do our best to avoid power disruptions, but they are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, remember that your co-op team is working safely to quickly restore power to all those affected.

Steve Rhodes,
Chief Executive Officer

COMMON CAUSES OF POWER OUTAGES

There is never a good time for the power to go out, but if it happens on a sunny day, you might be left wondering why. Here are the most common causes of a power outage.

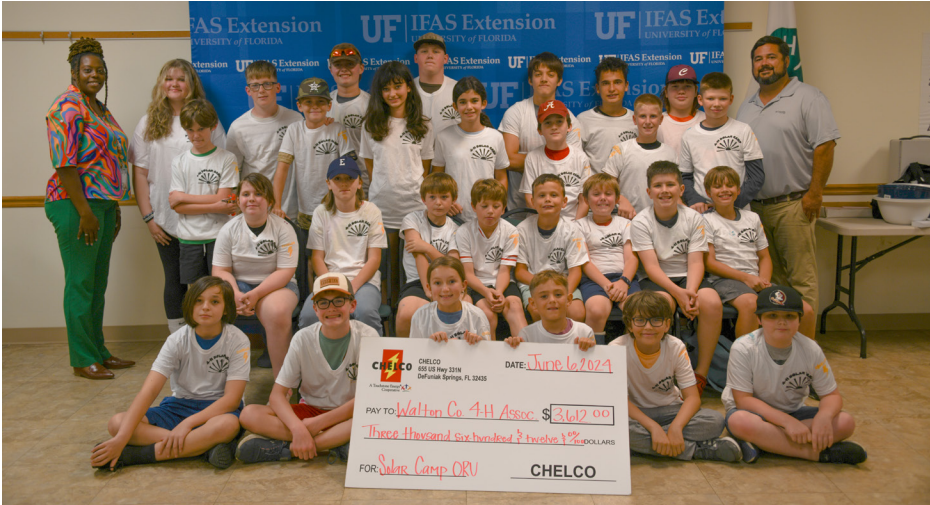
WEATHER
High winds, snow and ice can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines. Other weather effects, like wildfires and lightning strikes, can cause major damage to equipment.

CRITTERS
Squirrels, birds, snakes and other animals can inadvertently contact power lines, causing short circuits and disruptions to electrical supply.

ACCIDENTS
Vehicles can crash into utility poles, bringing down power lines. Construction and excavation work can also result in disruptions to underground lines.

Scheduled MAINTENANCE
Occasionally, we plan outages to perform upgrades or repairs to parts of the local grid.

Operation Round Up funds Solar Explorers Day Camp



The University of Florida/IFAS extension office, in collaboration with area 4-H associations, hosted a two-day Outdoor Adventures day camp for nearly 30 local students. Funded through CHELCO's Operation Round Up program, attendees learned about electrical safety, energy efficiency, careers in the utility industry, energy sources and more!



Students got a chance to see a lineman's gear, including insulated gloves (above) that are always worn when working on our lines.



CHELCO's Tina Rushing teaches students about solar and other renewable energy, including its benefits and limitations.



CHELCO's Tyler Jackson shares his knowledge on meters and surge protection with students.



CHELCO's Jared Mauldin discusses the importance of safety and why he chose a career as a CHELCO lineman.

Report an outage

A power outage can occur at any moment for a variety of reasons. Severe weather, fallen trees, car accidents and animals can cause power outages in CHELCO's service territory. By being prepared, you, your family, or your business can weather an outage while we at CHELCO work diligently to restore your power promptly.

Outage Reporting

- Call (800) 342-0990
- Use the MyCHELCO App, available on your smart device

Outage Tracking and Other Helpful Resources

- To receive outage information for your account, text "MyCHELCO" to (800) 342-0990.
- View our interactive outage map and learn how you and your family can plan at chelco.com/storm-center.

Recipe of the Month



Buttermilk Pie

Indulge in a delicious homemade buttermilk pie! Learn this recipe and more at CHELCO.com/recipes.

CHELCO is governed by a nine-member board of trustees: Lee Perry, District 1; Terry Pilcher, District 2; Reese Harrison, District 3; Brady Bearden, Vice President, District 4; Ronald Jones, District 5; Gerald Edmondson, President, District 6; Bert Prutzman, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, District 7; Gayle Hughes, Secretary/Treasurer, District 8; Dwayne Davis, District 9.

Switch to Save offers members monthly bill credits



Pictured above: CHELCO Energy Advisor Tyler (right) speaks to a member about the load control switch before it is installed.

CHELCO members can help control the cost of electricity and earn monthly bill credits by joining our Switch to Save program. Participants in the voluntary program allow CHELCO to install a load control switch on their water heater that is activated when electricity is in a high-demand (or “peak”) period.

The single largest expense CHELCO has is the price of energy we deliver to our members. When demand for electricity rises or “peaks”, the wholesale cost to buy it rises. When CHELCO purchases large amounts of energy during these peak periods when prices are highest, it can have a significant impact on rates.

How the Switch Works

A switch is connected to your electric water heater. A signal is sent to the switch to turn off the electricity to your tank’s heating


elements for short periods of time during the “peak” hours when electricity is most expensive. Even with the brief interruption, your water heater will keep water hot for hours, leaving you plenty of hot water for showers, laundry and your family’s other needs.


A Switch Worth Savings


As a reward for joining Switch to Save, CHELCO offers two incentives. First, members will receive a \$25 bill credit when the switch is installed. Then, members will see a \$3 bill credit each month as long as the switch remains installed.

Ready to start saving? Installations begin this month in North Walton County. To learn more about the program and when we will be in your area, visit chelco.com/switch-save or contact us at (850) 307-1122 or energyservices@chelco.com.

HOW IT WORKS SWITCH TO SAVE

- 

We connect a small device to your water heater that allows us to cycle it on and off.
- 

When demand for electricity is extremely high (cold winter mornings and hot summer afternoons), we may turn off your water heater for a short time to reduce the amount of energy the co-op purchases.
- 

When the peak is over, your water heater is turned back on.

BENEFITS OF LOAD CONTROL

- Because your water heater is a storage device, there should be no noticeable difference to you during a control event.
- We avoid buying higher-priced electricity during times of high demand.
- Avoiding peaks helps minimize future rate increases.
- Using less electricity during peaks helps delay the need for new power plants.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling and heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts. Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling and heating system.

Are you looking for more energy efficiency resources? We have a team of experts that can help you find an answer. From in-home energy audits, surge protection and other sensible savings alternatives, we are here for you.

For more information, call our Energy Services team at (850) 307-1122 or email energyservices@chelco.com.

IS \$25 YOURS?

If the account number below matches yours, call us at (850) 892-2111 or stop by any CHELCO office to claim a \$25 credit on your next bill! This month’s winner is:

Carter - 9000036554

For unclaimed capital credits, visit CHELCO.com/capital-credits.