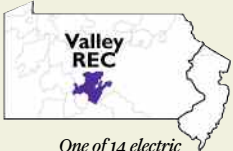


## Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
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#### OUTAGES & EMERGENCIES

1-800-432-0680

FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

## Bring home baby safely



by Wayne Miller  
President & CEO

**EARLIER** this summer, I had the privilege of welcoming a new grandson into our family. My wife and I enjoy spending as much time as possible with our grandchildren. They are such a blessing.

As many of us can attest, preparing your home for a baby — whether you are a new parent or an extended family member —

is no small task. Along with that little bundle of joy comes a big responsibility for feeding, cleaning and providing a secure environment.

Bumps and boo-boos will be part of every child's life. But it is important that we make a continuous effort to keep our littlest loved ones safe from critical dangers like electricity.

### Splish, splash safely

A baby's first bathtub may be on a countertop or in the kitchen sink. Be mindful of outlets in the area. Be sure they are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters, which will minimize shock if items plugged into them are exposed to water.

Set your water heater to 120 degrees or below to help prevent scalding and get the added bonus of energy savings, too.

### While you are sleeping


Although a full night's rest may be a rare luxury with a new baby in the home, it is still important to install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms outside all bedrooms and near fuel-burning heaters. Also remember to follow current guidelines on crib and mattress safety and sleep positions.

### Techie baby

New and improved electronics come out every day to make parenting easier. Follow manufacturer-recommended safety measures, keep cords contained and properly mount all gear. Take care not to overload outlets with new gadgets.

### Don't blink

Your baby won't be little for long. Before you know it, he or she will be mobile. You may think a room looks safe, but consider stooping down to a baby's level to see what else catches your eye. The new perspective may alert you to outlets, cords and other hazards that may be within a child's reach.

You can't plan for everything, and it may not be possible to test all products and items before the little one comes home. Look for the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) mark on home electronics. UL tests items for product safety to give you a degree of comfort in new purchases. For more advice, visit [www.safetyathome.com](http://www.safetyathome.com). 



**LEFT:** Valley's Youth Tour students pause for a photo at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., after enjoying a production of the musical "Memphis." In the front, from left, are Erin Curfman, Jennie Effland, Samantha Bliss, Ashlynn Cornelius and Taylor McCready. In the second row, from left, are Makayla Hawbaker, Rachel Baker and Mary Sloan. In the back, from left, are Ben Ardrey, Billy Shee, Brian Stringer Jr. and Ryan McKay.

## Co-op sends 12 students on all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C

BY SUSAN R. PENNING  
*Director of Member Services*

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative sponsored 12 local high school students on the 2012 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 17-22. The teens come from five counties in co-op territory and represent seven schools.

They joined more than 1,500 other juniors and seniors from electric co-ops all over the country who participated in the event, which has brought high school students to Washington, D.C., every June since the late 1950s.

This year's all-expenses-paid trip included many activities, such as meetings with federal legislators and rural electric leaders, visits to historic monuments throughout Washington, and tours of the Smithsonian museums and National Zoo, Holocaust Museum and Arlington Cemetery. The schedule also included a sunset cruise on the Potomac River, a parade at the Iwo Jima Memorial and a production of "Memphis" at the Kennedy Center.

"I had a blast in Washington, D.C.," says Youth Tour student Makayla Hawbaker of Shade Gap. "Thank you (Valley REC) for the wonderful opportunity."

"We all had an amazing time," adds Youth Tour student Taylor McCready of Duncansville.

In addition to sightseeing in the nation's capital, Youth Tour participants learned about the cooperative way of doing business

and the principles that govern rural electric co-ops.

Recommended by guidance counselors at their respective schools, the students were selected for the trip on the basis of academic achievement, leadership in extracurricular activities and community service.

One of the Valley REC-sponsored students is from Fannett-Metal Middle/High School. Jennie Effland is the daughter of Samuel and Karen Effland of Fort Loudon. Jennie has served as treasurer for her chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS). She also participates in track and field, youth group and student council, as well as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the sportsmen's, drama and varsity clubs.

One Youth Tour student is from Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School. Taylor McCready is the daughter of Donald McCready and Diane Mobley of Duncansville. Taylor is vice president of Key Club and student council and also participates in the Model United Nations and art clubs. A Leadership Blair County Youth program graduate, Taylor is an avid dancer who volunteers at the Frankstown YMCA, as well as a local home for the elderly.

Two of the Youth Tour students are from Huntingdon Area High School. They are Ben Ardrey, son of Todd and Susan Ardrey of Hesston, and Mary Sloan, daughter of Joseph and Ellen Sloan of Huntingdon.

Ben plays football and also enjoys track and field. A member of the



**ABOVE:** From left, Makayla, Ashlynn, Jennie and Billy take time to explore the World War II Memorial.

**BELOW:** From left, Brian, Samantha, Ryan and Ben catch a view of the Washington, D.C., skyline while on a Potomac River sunset boat cruise.





NHS, he is active in his youth group and participates in a church ministry, where he volunteers to play guitar for nursing home residents.

Mary is an NHS member and volleyball player who has participated in the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership organization and in her school's production of "Hello Dolly." Mary is on the 4-H junior rifle team, is an altar server at her church and has taken part in the National March for Life in Washington for the past three years.

Three of the Valley REC-sponsored Youth Tour students are from Mount Union Area High School. They are Samantha Bliss, daughter of Tim and Jacquita Bliss of Huntingdon; Ryan McKay, son of Kevin and Judy McKay of Huntingdon; and Brian Stringer Jr., son of Brian and Susan Stringer of Mattawana.

An NHS member, Samantha is vice president of her Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter. She is also active in 4-H, the Huntingdon County Dairy Promotion program and the Junior Holstein Club. She serves as president of her American Baptist Girls Club and participates in track and field.

Ryan runs on the cross country team and participates in track and field. He is active in his youth group and the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). He also serves as publication chairman for his chapter of the Order of the Arrow, the national honor society of the BSA.

Brian plays soccer in the community league and has participated in cross country, and track and field. He is a member of the FFA and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). He also serves as president of his 4-H club and is active in his youth group and the Just Cluckin' Poultry Club.

Three Youth Tour students hail from Southern Huntingdon County High School. They are Ashlynn Cornelius, daughter of Kenneth and Pamela Cornelius of Hustontown; Makayla Hawbaker, daughter of Mike and Michelle Hawbaker of Shade Gap; and Billy Shee, son of Robert and Dianne Shee of Calvin.

Ashlynn plays field hockey and is a member of the NHS, band and student council. She is also active in FFA and the Science Olympiad competition, where she

recently placed fourth at the regional level.


Makayla serves as class secretary. An NHS member and FFA officer, she also participates in band and the Daily News Press Club. In addition, she is active in the People-to-People Ambassador Programs and her youth group, and she recently traveled to the Czech Republic on a mission trip.

Billy is an NHS member who plays in the band and competes in the Science Olympiad. He also participates in the Tri-M Music Club and the Archaeology Day Camp at Greenwood Furnace State Park.

One Valley REC-sponsored student is from Tussey Mountain High School. Erin Curfman is the daughter of Clair and Susan Curfman of Cassville. Erin participates in marching band and serves as treasurer. She also serves as treasurer of the French Club and is a member of the NHS and student council.

One Youth Tour student hails from Williamsburg High School. Rachel Baker is the daughter of Ron and Missy Baker of Williamsburg. Rachel is in band and chorus and participates in the library club and on the prom committee. She loves to dance and is also active in 4-H and her youth group. She is a graduate of the Leadership Blair County Youth program.

To be eligible to participate in Youth Tour, students must be juniors or seniors in high school and must be sons or daughters of co-op members or employees.

For more information about the Rural Electric Youth Tour, visit [valleyrec.com](http://valleyrec.com) or [youthtour.coop](http://youthtour.coop), or contact the member services department at Valley REC at 800/432-0680. 



**ABOVE:** From left, Taylor, Rachel and Mary stop for a photo on Capitol Hill during a scheduled visit with their legislators.

**BELOW:** U.S. Rep. Bill Shuster (R-9th) meets with Youth Tour students to discuss current issues affecting the nation. Youth Tour students had the opportunity to ask questions and offer feedback during their time with the congressman.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF YOUTH TOUR STUDENTS AND CHAPERONES

# Co-op announces scholarship winners

BY LUANNE H. ECKENRODE

Vice President, Consumer Services  
and Public Relations

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative recently awarded 25 \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors as well as students already enrolled in post-secondary institutions.

The co-op's Brighter Future Scholarship Program was established two years ago to assist eligible students who are cooperative members or their dependents. Selection criteria include academic achievement, financial need, and school activities and community service.

The money to finance this initiative comes from unclaimed capital credits refunds that previously had to be turned over to the state treasury. But now, thanks to the efforts of the cooperative's political advocates, these resources can be kept in co-op communities and used to assist consumers facing financial hardships and to fund educational scholarships.

The following 20 high school seniors were awarded scholarships from Valley REC:

*Bedford County:* Tussey Mountain High School – Morgan Gates, daughter of Todd and Wendy Gates of Saxton, attending the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

*Blair County:* Blair County Christian School – Katie McCormick, daughter of Tim and Stacie McCormick, attending Geneva College; Central High School – Lindsey Smith, daughter of David and Amy Smith of Martinsburg, attending Liberty University; and Andrew Farkus, son of Jerome and Christine Farkus of Roaring Spring, attending California University of Pennsylvania; Claysburg-Kimmel High School – Kayla Carson, daughter of James and Sherri Carson of Claysburg, attending Mount Aloysius College; Hollidaysburg Area Senior High

School – Nathan Figart, son of Michael and Patricia Figart of Hollidaysburg, attending Mount Aloysius; and Brittney Lowey, daughter of Thayne and Amy Lowey of Duncansville, attending Grove City College; Williamsburg Junior/Senior High School – Joshua Kizina, son of Alan and Peg Kizina of Williamsburg, attending Susquehanna University; and Chad Wheland, son of Mark and Cheryl Wheland of Williamsburg, attending Penn State Altoona.

*Fulton County:* Forbes Road High School – Ty Brantner, son of Randy and Deb Brantner of Hustontown, attending Pennsylvania College of Technology;

attending South Hills School of Business and Technology; Southern Huntingdon County High School – Kayla Wright, daughter of Scott and Carol Wright of Cassville, attending Penn State Altoona; and Bethany Dunkle, daughter of Ray and Jamie Dunkle of Mapleton Depot, attending Lebanon Valley College.

Five students currently enrolled in post-secondary institutions were also awarded scholarships from Valley REC for the 2012-13 academic year. They include: Kaitlyn Felty, daughter of Harry Felty of Hollidaysburg and Lisa Felty of James Creek, a 2010 graduate of

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## brighter future Scholarship Program

Southern Fulton Junior/Senior High School – Jenna Hollenshead, daughter of Joe and Heather Hollenshead of Needmore, attending Shippensburg University; and Kelsey White, daughter of Daniel and Billie White of Needmore, attending Messiah College.

*Huntingdon County:* Huntingdon Area High School – Dante Fisher, son of Heather Fisher of Huntingdon, attending Middlebury College; and Kiera Foster, daughter of Carol Foster of Mill Creek, attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP); Juniata Valley High School – Brittany Hawn, daughter of William and Lisa Hawn of Petersburg, attending Vet Tech Institute; and Amanda Merritts, daughter of Ron and Sandy Merritts of Petersburg, attending IUP; Mount Union Area High School – Kylee Roles, daughter of Robert and Tracy Roles of McVeytown, attending Franklin & Marshall College; New Day Charter School – Steven Moore, son of Steven and Nora Moore of Huntingdon,

Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School attending Penn State; Maxwell Reitman, son of Robert and Carol Peters Reitman, a 2006 graduate of Huntingdon Area High School attending Juniata College; Tori Cutshall, daughter of Ronald and Laura Cutshall of Orbisonia, a 2011 graduate of Southern Huntingdon County High School attending Saint Francis University; Stacia-Fe Gillen, daughter of John and Vicky Gillen of Huntingdon, a 2010 graduate of Huntingdon Area High School attending Allegheny College; and Emily Bilger, daughter of Rusty Bilger of Hesston and Sarah Rhodes of Huntingdon, a 2011 graduate of Huntingdon Area High School attending York College of Pennsylvania.

For more information about Valley Rural Electric Cooperative's Brighter Future Scholarship Program, call 800/432-0680 or visit [www.valleyrec.com](http://www.valleyrec.com) and follow the Programs and Services link to the Scholarships section. ☀