

INTER-COUNTY ENERGY

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AUGUST 2025

From the President/CEO

Why we honor those who served

The homecoming celebration of an Honor Flight is the last thing that veterans from Inter-County Energy experience when they go on an Honor Flight. And it's the best part.

It's a scene straight out of a movie. Hundreds of friends, family and neighbors gather at the airport to greet the soldiers who are returning from an entire day of seeing all the memorials dedicated to honoring those who serve in our nation's capital.

It will bring a tear to your eye, and it often does for the veterans, too.

It's probably my favorite part of the entire Honor Flight experience. It's one of the reasons that Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives has been sponsoring an Honor Flight for more than a dozen years now.

Honor Flights were originally intended for World War II veterans to have the opportunity see Washington, D.C.'s many memorials, specifically the World War II memorial that's on the National Mall.

Sadly, nearly all of our World War II veterans are gone. However, there are thousands of Vietnam and Korea era veterans still with us, and we're blessed to be able to honor them on our Honor Flights, too.



The reception the returning Vietnam era veterans received in the 1960s and 1970s was much different than an Honor Flight's welcome home celebration. Many of those veterans now tell me the welcome home ceremony is something they'll never forget because this time, they're being celebrated for their service.

Celebrating the service of these veterans is why we sponsor an Honor Flight every year. Honor Flight is a deeply moving experience for so many of them. Many of our Vietnam veterans have never seen the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, known commonly as "The Wall," in person. Visiting "The Wall" can be a deeply emotional time for these vets. Many find the names of old friends, loved ones, or platoon mates who were lost in battles our veterans fought in.

It's a powerful moment to see them touch the wall, reaching out to someone lost so long ago.

Honor Flight is one of the ways we give back to our community, and it's one of my favorites. Anywhere you look in our co-op, you'll find a number of veterans who deserve all the recognition we can give them for their service. We're honored to honor them.

If you want to be part of this, join us for this year's welcome home celebration at the Blue Grass Airport on Aug. 23 by 7 p.m.

INTER-COUNTY
ENERGY COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

President/CEO
Jerry Carter



FLAGPOLE SAFETY

Being patriotic is important, but so is being safe when working with flagpoles. Whether you are installing a fiberglass or a metal flagpole, follow these tips to be safe:

1. Call 811 before digging to install a flagpole.
2. Be overly cautious when working around power lines. Maintain at least a 15-foot clearance around power lines and any nearby trees. Consider both the flagpole and the flag for the 15-foot clearance.
3. If a pole comes in contact with a power line, serious injury or death can occur to anyone holding the pole or standing nearby.
4. Any object touching an overhead power line could serve as a conduit for the electricity should it reach the ground, including humans.
5. A typical residential flagpole, which is installed in the ground, is 20–25 feet tall. When using a 20-foot pole with a recommended maximum flag size of 3x5 feet, the pole should be no closer than 45 feet to any overhead power lines. If you are using a 25-foot pole with a recommended maximum flag size of 4x6 feet, the pole should be no closer than 51 feet to any existing overhead power lines.
6. Check local regulations and building codes before installing a flagpole.



Common causes of power outages

Power outages are never convenient. Sometimes, it's no mystery why we are left in the dark, like when lightning and thunder rattle windows and walls. Other times, an outage may come out of the blue.

The length of time it takes to restore power will vary by the cause. Most electric cooperatives attempt to share outage information through social media platforms. Here are some of the most common causes your cooperative might be facing.

WEATHER

- The most common cause for power outages is weather. A heavy buildup of ice and snow on power lines, poles and equipment can bring them down.
- Wind also causes widespread damage. High winds following a heavy ice storm can be particularly devastating.
- Extremely hot weather can cause power lines to sag into vegetation and can also cause unusually high demand that can overburden transformers and other electrical equipment, causing equipment failures.
- Lightning strikes can cause major damage to electrical equipment, transmission towers, wires and poles. If the lights go out in the middle of a thunderstorm, lightning is probably the culprit.

TREES

- During high winds, snow and ice, tree limbs can snap, or entire trees can topple onto power lines.

ACCIDENTS

- A vehicle hitting a utility pole can break the pole and knock lines from their overhead perch. Excavation work



can disturb buried electric service lines causing an outage. Always call 811 before any gardening or digging project.

ANIMALS

- Squirrels, snakes and other small animals and birds can climb on poles and electrical equipment, which may cause a short circuit or equipment to shut down.

VANDALISM

- Deliberate damage, like shooting at transformers, still causes outages—especially in rural areas.
- Thieves also steal copper wire and other pieces of electrical equipment. Both acts of vandalism can be extremely costly and deadly.

PLANNED OUTAGES

- If an electric cooperative is performing maintenance or upgrading its equipment, it may need to temporarily turn off the power. The cooperative will usually try to notify consumers. This is why it's always a good idea to make sure your cooperative has updated contact information.
- If you experience an outage, alert your cooperative. While most co-ops have upgraded to digital systems that automatically detect outages, others still rely on notification from their customers before they come out to investigate the cause and restore power.

The trip of a lifetime

Kentucky electric co-op students experience D.C.

Photos: Tim Webb

Kentucky's electric cooperatives sponsored 61 high school seniors on the trip of a lifetime in June. A delegation of rising leaders visited the nation's capital for the 2025 Washington Youth Tour, experiencing the city's rich history and nonstop energy. Students enjoyed a front-row seat to the stories, service and sacrifices that have shaped our country and cooperative communities—all while making unforgettable memories of their own.

Inter-County Energy proudly sponsors the state-wide youth your program, which gives students the chance to explore our nation's history, meet elected leaders and see cooperative principles in action. "We believe in giving young people opportunities to lead," says Mallory Wafzig, manager of cooperative outreach for Kentucky Electric Cooperatives. "The youth tour helps students build confidence, expand their network and develop the leadership skills they'll carry into the future."

This year, Norah Martin, Parker Miller and Olivia Rogers represented Inter-County Energy on the tour. "This was by far one of my favorite trips, with some of the best people," says Martin.

Trip highlights included a tour of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, where students took part in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon, the Marine Corps Sunset Parade and a walking tour of D.C.'s iconic memorials and monuments. Students also spent time exploring the Smithsonian museums and experienced the power of language at the Planet Word Museum.



Norah Martin asks a question during a meeting with legislative staff.



Students visit the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial.

For the first time, Kentucky's delegation toured the White House, with some students catching a glimpse of President Donald Trump as he oversaw a flagpole installation on the lawn. At the Capitol, students asked questions and explored how government works. They met with Sen. Rand Paul and engaged in thoughtful conversations about the farm bill, artificial intelligence and the role of Congress in shaping national policy. Staff from the House Energy and Commerce Committee, as well the offices of Rep. James Comer and Rep. Thomas Massie, offered a behind-the-scenes look at the legislative process.

"As part of our commitment to community, Inter-County Energy invests in the leaders of tomorrow," says CEO Jerry Carter. "The Washington Youth Tour is an experience that stays with them for life."



Norah Martin and Olivia Rogers on the youth tour trip. "I highly recommend it to all upcoming seniors," Rogers says.

OUR MISSION

Inter-County Energy accomplishes our daily mission by providing energy and services to our members through a culture of Safety, Accountability, Integrity, Innovation and Commitment to Community.

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Jerry Carter

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For major outage updates and restoration efforts, listen to the following radio stations; WPBK 102.9, WHIR 105.1, WOKH 102.7, WDFB 88.1 or WLSK 100.9.

OFFICES:

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Get your hands on this!

Inter-County Energy Conservation Clubhouse lets students see and touch some of Kentucky's natural treasures

Snakes and salamanders could be coming to a classroom near you. The critters are the stars of the show during Conservation Clubhouse, an interactive, educational program that teaches students about Kentucky's natural resources and the environment.

During a 45-minute presentation, students can interact with live, non-venomous reptiles and amphibians while learning about animals that are native to the commonwealth. The dynamic presentation also teaches a lesson about the role humans play in

protecting the natural environment.

Inter-County Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives offer Conservation Clubhouse to area schools at no charge. The program, which is targeted for fourth grade and above, meets CORE curriculum standards.

Presentation dates for the 2025-26 school year are filling up fast. Teachers interested in scheduling a Conservation Clubhouse program should contact Inter-County Energy's April Burgess at (859) 936-7822 or april@intercountyenergy.net.



MORGAN JANSSEN