



# First Electric Cooperative

Improving Quality of Life

## Five high school graduates awarded Round-Up scholarships

Five recent high school graduates will receive a \$2,000 college scholarship funded by First Electric Cooperative's Operation Round-Up program.

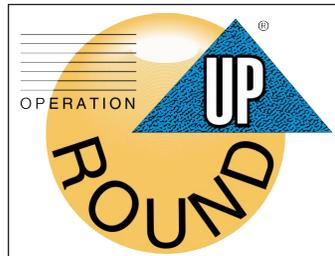
Recipients are: Emma Cheek of England, Kaylyn Covington of Rose Bud, Lane Granberry of Perry, Jace Jacobs of Benton and Kyla Patterson of DeWitt.

The scholarships are awarded to one student in each of the co-op's five districts. They are made possible thanks to the thousands of First Electric members who participate in Operation Round-Up and allow their bill to be rounded up to the next dollar amount each month. That money — more than \$879,900 since 1998 — funds not only scholarships but also donations to local non-profit organizations.

You can help support your community by joining Operation Round-Up! To enroll, call 800-489-7405, look under the "Community" tab at [www.firstelectric.coop](http://www.firstelectric.coop) or stop by a First Electric office.

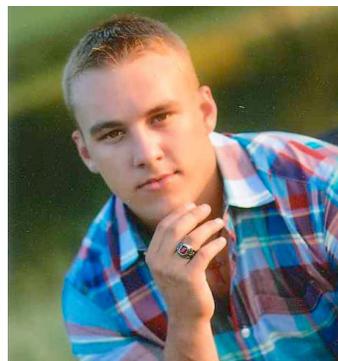
High school seniors may apply for the scholarships annually.

Applications for the 2018 scholarships will be available Feb. 1, 2018 at [www.firstelectric.coop](http://www.firstelectric.coop), at co-op offices and in high school counselors' offices.



Joining Operation Round-Up is easy!

- Call 800-489-7405
- Enroll through the SmartHub app
- Enroll online on the "Community" tab at [www.firstelectric.coop](http://www.firstelectric.coop)



### Lane Granberry

**Parents:** Chris & Megan Granberry  
**High School:** Morrilton High School  
**Future Goals:** Plans to attend the University of Central Arkansas and major in supply chain management. He is interested in a career as a supply manager.



### Emma Cheek

**Parents:** Jim & Ashley Cheek  
**High School:** England High School  
**Future Goals:** Plans to attend the University of Central Arkansas and major in biology. She would like to eventually attend medical school for optometry.



### Kaylyn Covington

**Parents:** Jeremy & Cathy Covington  
**High School:** Rose Bud High School  
**Future Goals:** Plans to attend Arkansas State University-Beebe and then transfer to a four-year university to pursue a bachelor's degree in the medical field.



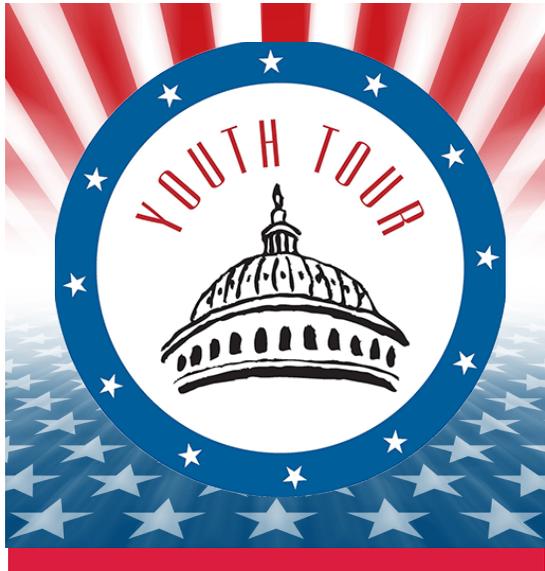
### Jace Jacobs

**Parents:** Jay & Gina Jacobs  
**High School:** Baptist Prep High School  
**Future Goals:** Plans to attend Arkansas Tech University and major in environmental science. He is interested in a career protecting the environment.



### Kyla Patterson

**Parents:** Harlen & Angie Patterson  
**High School:** DeWitt High School  
**Future Goals:** Plans to attend Arkansas State University and major in exercise science and eventually work toward a doctorate in physical therapy.



# Delegates selected for educational Youth Tour

First Electric has selected four teenagers to represent the co-op on the 2017 Youth Tour, an all-expense-paid educational trip to Washington, D.C.

Decatur Austin of Benton, Tehya Hinkson of Benton, Britney McGloflin of Austin and Jared McPeake of Benton will explore the nation's capital June 9-15 with delegates from the 16 other Arkansas electric cooperatives.

The group will join 1,500 students from across the United States in the nation's capital. During the trip, they'll learn about electric cooperatives; tour historic sites, monuments and museums; and meet members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation.

For more information on Youth Tour and to see photos of last year's trip, visit [www.firstelectric.coop](http://www.firstelectric.coop) and look under the "Community" tab.

High school juniors may apply for the Youth Tour each year. Applications for the 2018 Youth Tour will be available Feb. 1, 2018 at [www.firstelectric.coop](http://www.firstelectric.coop), at co-op offices and in high school counselors' offices.

Follow First Electric on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to see photos and videos from this year's trip to D.C.!



**Decatur Austin**

**Parents:** Charles & Cynthia Austin  
**High School:** Bryant High School



**Tehya Hinkson**

**Parents:** Eddie & Sara Hinkson  
**High School:** Bryant High School



**Britney McGloflin**

**Parents:** Joe & Lani McGloflin  
**High School:** Cabot High School



**Jared McPeake**

**Parents:** Stanley & Rebecca McPeake  
**High School:** Benton High School

# Local businesses receive “Watt A Difference” award

First Electric Cooperative honored a commercial account member from each of its districts with the Watt A Difference award for recent energy efficiency improvements made after an energy audit.

The following recipients were recognized at the co-op’s annual commercial account meetings in April —

## Benton District

• **Everett Buick GMC in Benton** for the innovative energy-efficient design of its new car dealership;

## Heber Springs District

• **Arkansas State University-Beebe, Heber Springs campus in Heber Springs** for installing occupancy sensors, installing return air ducts in HVAC units and upgrading lighting to LED;

## Jacksonville District

• **Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Cabot** for reducing its total wattage usage by more than 90 percent by upgrading indoor and outdoor lighting to LED.

## Perryville District

• **Winthrop Rockefeller Institute in Morrilton** for upgrading lighting to LED, upgrading HVAC units and adjusting set thermostat temperatures; and

## Stuttgart District

• **Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, DeWitt Campus in DeWitt** for upgrading indoor and outdoor lighting to LED and replacing three HVAC units with high-efficiency units.

“We are pleased to recognize these commercial members for their energy efficiency improvements,” Vice President of Marketing and Communications Tonya Sexton said. “Even the smallest changes such as changing out lighting to LED bulbs can add up to significant savings in your electric bill.”

First Electric conducts diagnostic and walk-through energy audits for residential and commercial members. Contact a marketing representative at 800-489-7405 to schedule an audit.



**Mount Carmel Baptist Church** Facilities Manager Rick Adams, Senior Pastor David Mitchell and Student Pastor Josh Adair received the award at the annual meeting in Jacksonville.



**Winthrop Rockefeller Institute** Director of Maintenance Leo York and Director of Operations Joel Smith accept the award on behalf of WRI.

## Everett Buick GMC

Vendor Relations Director Brad Bohannon and Community Relations Lacey Brooks received the award from Vice President of Marketing and Communications Tonya Sexton.



## ASU-Beebe at Heber Springs

Site Director Nina Provence and Physical Plant Maintenance Coordinator Jeff Baggett accept the award on behalf of the university.



**PCCUA DeWitt** Plant Maintenance Supervisor Randy VanCamp received the award from Vice President of Marketing and Communications Tonya Sexton.

# Illuminating storm safety

Summer is here and that means it is time to enjoy the outdoors. While we work hard to ensure that your power delivery system is safe and reliable, we also want to share these tips from safelectricity.org about how to stay safe from nature's most powerful, and potentially deadly, form of electricity — lightning.

- A lightning strike can cause serious or even fatal injuries. To avoid these risks, always keep an eye on weather forecasts and make backup plans in case of an unexpected storm.

- Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area in which it is raining. Preparation is important to safety. Listen to, watch, or download an app on a handheld device that provides weather forecasts so that you know if there is a chance of severe weather. If there is a chance, reschedule the activity or make sure you can get to a safe location if a thunderstorm develops.

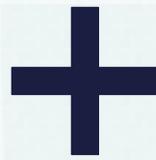
- Safe shelters are in fully enclosed buildings or in a fully enclosed metal-topped vehicle. Open vehicles, such as convertibles, motorcycles, and golf carts, are not safe. Open structures—such as porches, gazebos, pavilions, and baseball dug-outs—are not safe either. Stay in a safe shelter for at least 30 minutes after you last hear thunder.

- Before a thunderstorm, turn off or unplug corded appliances and stay away from television sets. Also, turn off your air conditioner to help protect the compressor from a potential power surge and costly repairs from the storm.

- During the thunderstorm, do not lie on concrete floors and avoid leaning on concrete walls. Lightning can travel through any metal wires or bars in concrete walls or flooring.

- If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and care for the victim immediately. You are not in danger of being shocked or electrocuted by the victim.

For more information on storm safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



## Staying Safe Until Power is Restored



How long it takes to get your power restored depends on:

- the extent of the storm's destruction 
- the number of outages **#?**
- when it becomes safe for utility personnel to get to the damaged areas 

There are many steps in the assessment and restoration process—clearing downed power lines; ensuring public health and safety facilities are operational; checking power stations and transformers; repairing transmission lines, substations, and distribution lines; and getting power restored to consumers within the various damaged areas.

### Storm Safety Kit

-  Drinking water & food
-  Blankets, pillows, & clothing
-  Basic first-aid supplies
-  Prescriptions
-  Basic toiletries
-  Flashlights
-  Battery-operated radio
-  Battery-operated clock
-  Extra supply of batteries
-  Phone
-  Cash and credit cards
-  Emergency numbers
-  Important documents (in a waterproof container)
-  Toys, books, & games
-  Baby supplies
-  Pet supplies



Stay safe until we can restore power to you. We and our partner Safe Electricity recommend the following safety precautions:

- Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines. Just because they are damaged **does not mean they are dead!**
- Never enter a flooded room if electrical outlets are submerged. **The water could be energized.**
- **Do not** turn power off if you must stand in water to do so.
- Before entering storm-damaged buildings, **make sure electricity and gas are turned off.**
- If you clean-up outdoors after a storm, **do not use electric equipment** when it is wet out.
- If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, **stay away and keep others away.** Contact emergency personnel or your utility company to address the downed power line.
- If your vehicle comes in contact with a downed power line, **do not leave the car!** Wait for utility professionals to make sure the power line is de-energized before exiting the car.

For more information, visit:

 Safe Electricity.org®

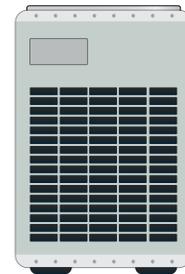
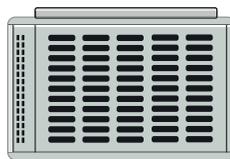
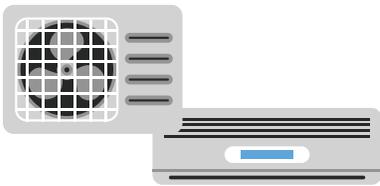
# PROPERLY SIZING YOUR HVAC UNIT



An improperly sized HVAC unit can wreak havoc on your home. An oversized unit can cause your system to “short cycle” – constantly turning off and on. An undersized unit will run constantly to keep up with demand. Consider the factors below and choose an HVAC system that works best for your home.

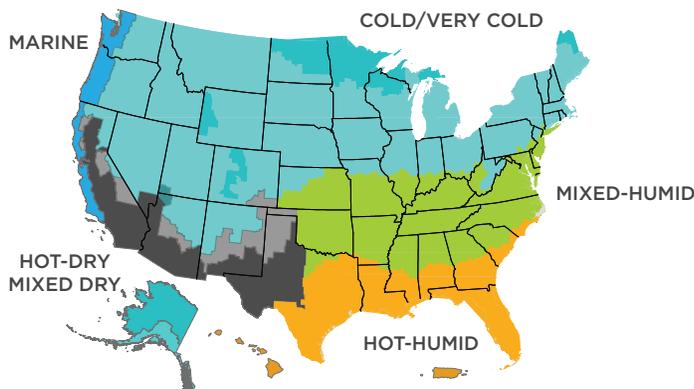
## SIZE MATTERS

The square footage of your home can help determine the load capacity of your HVAC unit, but it should not be the only factor considered when reviewing unit sizes. Enlist the help of a licensed professional to determine the best HVAC unit for your home.



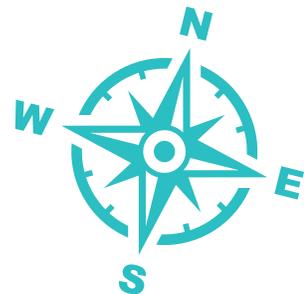
## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The region in which your home is located will factor into how much capacity you need per square foot.



## HOME'S ORIENTATION

How sunlight hits your home during different times of the day impacts the load capacity required to properly heat or cool your home.



## INSULATION EFFECTIVENESS

The better insulated your home is, the fewer BTUs (British Thermal Units) per square foot your home will need to stay at the desired temperature.



A reliable energy partner will help you determine how each of these factors affect your system's load capacity. Contact your electric co-op for more information.

Source: Dept. of Energy



**First Electric Nominating Committee** (Left to Right) Dearl Dixon of Austin, representing the Jacksonville District; Dick Hoffman of Alexander, representing the Benton District; Ginger Hawkins of Perryville, representing the Perryville District; Hershel Barnett of Searcy, representing the Heber Springs District; Pam Hays of North Little Rock, representing the Jacksonville District; Daniel Sanders of Rose Bud, representing the Heber Springs District; Mark Sandage of Keo, representing the Jacksonville District; and Cody Calhoun of Benton, representing the Benton District.

# Nominating Committee selects two candidates

On Friday, April 21, 2017, the nominating committee of First Electric Cooperative met at the cooperative's office in Jacksonville.

The purpose of the meeting was to select at least two First Electric members as nominees for election to the cooperative's board of directors for a six-year term.

The committee selected Tom Hasty of Almyra and Robert Maertens of Benton to be voted on at the annual membership meeting, which will be held June 22 in the office of the Cooperative at 1000 South J.P. Wright Loop Road, Jacksonville, Pulaski County, Arkansas, beginning at 10 a.m.

The committee included: Hershel Barnett, Searcy; Cody Calhoun, Benton; Dearl Dixon, Austin; Ginger Hawkins, Perryville; Pam Hays, North Little Rock; Dick Hoffman, Alexander; Mark Sandage, Keo; and Danny Sanders, Rose Bud.



**Tom Hasty**



**Robert Maertens**



**First Electric Cooperative business offices will be closed Tuesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Outages may be reported by calling 888-827-3322 or by using SmartHub at any time.**

# NOTICE

## Annual meeting set

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of First Electric Cooperative will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2017, in the Office of the Cooperative at 1000 South J.P. Wright Loop Road, Jacksonville, Pulaski County, Arkansas, beginning at 10 a.m. for the following purposes:

- To pass on reports for the previous fiscal year;
- To elect two (2) directors for the cooperative to serve a term of six (6) years; and,
- To transact such other business as properly may come before the meeting.

Any member planning to attend the annual meeting, who has special needs, is asked to contact the co-op at 800-489-7405 prior to the annual meeting for assistance.

Respectfully,

Robert Maertens,  
Secretary/Treasurer

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using rigid venting material – not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.

*Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy*