

# Give Thanks for the Comforts of Electricity



MESSAGE FROM  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
AND GENERAL MANAGER DARRYL SCHRIVER**

**EVERY THANKSGIVING, WITH FAMILY GATHERED** around the table, we take turns sharing what we're thankful for. Some of these expressions of gratitude may seem trivial, while others may be humorous or deeply touching.

I always walk away from the table—slowly, after overindulging—and wonder why we do that only once a year. Are we really only appreciative when the calendar tells us we should be?



I suspect we let the hustle and bustle of day-to-day life get in the way of taking time to appreciate how blessed we are—and expressing to those responsible for those blessings how much we appreciate them.

Like most of you, when asked what I'm grateful for, I'll say something like, "I'm grateful for family, friends, a comfortable bed to sleep in, good health and a home to shelter my family."

But that's an awfully short list for someone who has so much. I'm fortunate to have a job that I love—general manager

of Tri-County Electric Cooperative. While some days aren't easy, knowing that the work we do here at your electric cooperative makes our members' lives better is richly satisfying.

Nowhere in the business world will you find a more dedicated and hardworking group of employees. Our linemen risk life and limb every single day in their efforts to keep power flowing to each and every home and business on our system. Other employees provide critical behind-the-scenes support to

make sure everything runs smoothly.

Working in this business, I learned quickly not to take for granted a constant supply of electricity and to be grateful for the convenience and comfort it provides. While it's never convenient to be without power, it does give us a moment to reflect on just how much we rely on this invisible servant. Sometimes it's just a convenience we miss, like hot popcorn made in three minutes in a microwave. Other times, the absence of electricity could be life-threatening, such as when it's not available to power a breathing machine or other vital medical equipment. 8004765301

When the power does go out, I'm grateful we have skilled crews available 24/7 to fix the problem, as well as understanding members who patiently await repairs.

Author William Arthur Ward is credited with saying, "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

I'm going to do my best throughout the year to make sure every gift I wrap gets delivered. 8379400003

I wish you and your family a richly blessed Thanksgiving.



# Advancing Automation

BY ANNIE MCGINNIS

**TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONTINUES TO EVALUATE** current practices at the co-op to increase productivity and enhance services for our member-consumers. System upgrades help the co-op run more efficiently, which allows for a better member-consumer experience. Our metering system is just one way to improve co-op operations.

Over the past few months, we have given you information on our current metering system and the steps we've taken to improve our services.

Tri-County EC currently operates under an automated meter reading system of digital meters. This system requires meter readers to travel to member-consumers' homes each month with portable data collectors to manually retrieve monthly kilowatt-hour usage.

Our AMR system entails a lengthy process. Before meter readers set out for the day, the previous month's readings are loaded into data collectors to ensure the meters are transmitting correctly. Then, meter readers take daily routes and drive by member-consumers' homes. When meter readers return to the office, the data collectors are plugged into the system database to upload the meter data. This process is repeated until nearly 109,000 meters are read.

In 2021, Tri-County EC's AMR system will reach the end of its life because the metering vendor will no longer support the technology. In response, employees began evaluating the system and the possibility of upgrading last October.

The next step after AMR is advanced metering infrastructure, which increases efficiency and accuracy. While AMR involves one-way communication, AMI offers two-way communication, which means meters can talk to the co-op and the co-op can talk to meters. 8001527601

The upgrade decreases employee visits to member-consumers' homes just to read the meter each month. An AMI system not only will reduce intrusion on privacy but also will allow for near real-time usage reads through Tri-County EC's

customer information software. Member-consumers can see kilowatt usage information in more detail on the membership app or through their online membership portal. While our AMR system allows only for monthly readings, the AMI system will be able to transmit readings in 15-minute intervals, which enables member-consumers to more closely monitor usage and reduce electricity bills.

Safety and security are important to you, the member-consumer, and us, the cooperative. When evaluating a system upgrade, Tri-County EC makes security a priority. While it is important to track kilowatt usage for each meter, switching to an AMI system will not provide device-specific usage data. However, AMI will provide data for voltage and load studies, meter tampering and total system load. An AMI system provides the co-op with data necessary to maintain the health of the system while ensuring protection of member-consumers' information. 800764930

In February, our system experienced its largest outage in over a decade. Wintry weather left nearly 19,000 member-consumers without power for five days. The co-op managed outages based on member-consumers reports by phone.

An AMI system would have significantly decreased restoration times, and member-consumers could have been warm within hours instead of days. The two-way communication system would have automatically notified the co-op of the outage and location without the member-consumer reporting the incident. Restoration times decrease with an AMI system because devices in the field communicate with employees at the co-op instead of linemen having to ride lines to troubleshoot the issue. 800818105

An AMI system will allow Tri-County EC to evolve with technology and provide better service to you, our members. Tune in next month to learn more about Tri-County EC and how implementing an AMI system will affect our member-consumers.



# Hear From a Youth Tour Alumnus

**AS A COOPERATIVE, WE HAVE THE UNIQUE** ability to participate in our communities and enrich the lives of our youth. Cooperative Principle No. 7 is Concern for Community. One way we are able to deliver on this principle is through the Government-in-Action Youth Tour.

Six lucky high school students will get the chance to represent Tri-County Electric Cooperative in our nation's capital next June. Below is the story of one student, Jake Schriver, who has been impacted by Youth Tour.

Youth Tour 2018 was a life-changing experience. Growing up in a household where electric cooperatives were always important, I had always been familiar with Youth Tour. I had friends who went on it who would come back and stress how amazing it actually was.

Anytime someone would say that it was “the trip of a lifetime,” I would almost cringe, because in my mind, it seemed too far-fetched. When I arrived in Austin to start the weeklong journey of Youth Tour, I was so anxious and wanted to leave. Thankfully, my parents encouraged me to stay because after the first night, I had made friends that would last a lifetime.

Traveling must be one of the best parts of Youth Tour. I never was able to be bored with a place because we were constantly moving. Washington, D.C., was such an amazing place



because there was so much to explore. Though I had been to Washington many times with my family, through this trip, I was able to get a further understanding of our government and our nation's capital.

One particular moment that is very briefly discussed in advertisements for the trip is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This destination had the most impact on me because it demonstrated the overwhelming respect people demonstrate to our country's military. People traveled from all around the country to pay their respects. 800679844

Though the advertised purpose of Youth Tour is to learn about our nation, I ended up learning more about myself through this trip. I learned how to become more confident in myself and learned to hear others' opinions while still being able to voice my own. I strongly recommend applying for Youth Tour because it will teach you so much and help you grow as a person. The information I learned on Youth Tour has helped me further understand the political system. This deeper understanding helps me when I am taking college government, as I was able to experience the government firsthand. I strongly encourage anyone who is thinking about applying to go ahead. The knowledge, friendships, and self-understanding is all worth it in the end. 800724845

—Jake Schriver



# TRI-COUNTY

Electric Cooperative, Inc.

*"A Commitment to Service and Savings"*

600 NW Parkway | Azle, Texas 76020 | P: 817-444-3201 | F: 817-444-3542 | www.tcectexas.com

# Tri-County Electric Cooperative

## 2019 Youth Tour Application Packet



**Youth Tour: June 12-21, 2019**  
**Deadline: Friday, January 25, 2019**

This year, Tri-County Electric Cooperative will sponsor a trip for six high school students to attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Government In-Action Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. The tour gives students the chance to see our Nation's Capitol and meet government leaders, including their Congressman. Students also get to visit national monuments, museums and other historic buildings and sites. The Texas delegation will leave from Austin so the students can learn about Texas history and government before setting out for our Nation's Capitol.

This trip is a huge honor, so each of the six participants will receive a \$2,000 scholarship to assist in higher education or trade school.

Keller ★ Granbury ★ Azle  
Headquarters ★ Seymour

# Tri-County Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Application

## Information for Youth Tour Applicants

### Eligibility Requirements

Applicants can only receive the Youth Tour trip once

To be considered for the Youth Tour, the applicant must:

1. Reside with parents or legal guardians who are members of Tri-County EC with an active account at their permanent residence
2. Be a current high school student in the 10th or 11th grade
3. Submit the completed scholarship packet by 5:00 pm on Friday, January 25, 2019  
*No late applications will be accepted*
4. Attend a pre-trip meeting with Co-op staff and post-trip dinner with the Co-op Board of Directors

### Guidelines

Please complete the written application and submit, along with the following, to Tri-County EC:

1. 2 letters of recommendation
2. A 500-word essay or a 2-minute video  
*Topic: What is an electric cooperative?*
3. High resolution headshot (school photo is preferred)

### Application Procedures

To be considered, applicants must submit the items outlined in the Guidelines section above to Tri-County EC by 5:00 pm on Friday, January 25, 2019

Applications will be scored and interviews will start Friday, February 1, 2019

Winners will be selected on or before Friday, February 22, 2019

**Completed applications are due by 5:00 pm on Friday, January 25, 2019,  
either in person, postmarked by mail or emailed**

Please submit completed applications

By Mail:

Tri-County EC  
Attn: Annie McGinnis  
600 NW Parkway  
Azle, Texas 76020

In person at any Tri-County EC office:

Azle: 600 NW Parkway  
Granbury: 1623 Weatherford Highway  
Keller: 4900 Keller Hicks Road  
Seymour: 419 N. Main

By Email:

[amcginnis@tcectexas.com](mailto:amcginnis@tcectexas.com)

If you have any questions about the Youth Tour or the application, please contact Annie McGinnis at 817-752-8116 or [amcginnis@tcectexas.com](mailto:amcginnis@tcectexas.com).

# Tri-County Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Application

## Personal Information

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Family Information

Tri-County EC Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address on Tri-County EC Account: \_\_\_\_\_

Father/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## High School Information

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Classification: \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

## Future Goals

Future Education Goals: \_\_\_\_\_

Future Career Goals: \_\_\_\_\_

## School and Community Involvement

Please attach additional pages if necessary.

Please list any school-sponsored activities in which you have participated in priority order. Include dates of participation and any offices held.

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Please list any community activities, not school related, in which you have participated.

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Please list any honors, recognitions and awards received and the date they were received.

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### Acknowledgements

I hereby acknowledge that the attached application was prepared and written by me and I agree to permit the review of this application by members of the Tri-County Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Committee.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that my child is competing to win a 9-day, all-expense-paid trip (a \$3,010 value plus a \$2,000 scholarship for higher education or trade school) to Washington, D.C., June 12-21, 2019, sponsored by Tri-County EC.

If selected, I authorize Tri-County Electric Cooperative to take and use my son or daughter's picture in various publications.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the written application and submit, along with the following, to Tri-County EC:

1. 2 letters of recommendation
2. A 500-word essay or a 2-minute video  
*Topic: What is an electric cooperative?*
3. High resolution headshot (school photo is preferred)

## Completed applications are due by 5:00 pm on Friday, January 25, 2019

Please submit completed applications

By Mail:

Tri-County EC  
Attn: Annie McGinnis  
600 NW Parkway  
Azle, Texas 76020

In person at any Tri-County EC office:

Azle: 600 NW Parkway  
Granbury: 1623 Weatherford Highway  
Keller: 4900 Keller Hicks Road  
Seymour: 419 N. Main

By Email:

[amcginnis@tcectexas.com](mailto:amcginnis@tcectexas.com)

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# Gorilla Bread

KAY BRADLEY | SEYMOUR

- ½ cup sugar
- 3 teaspoons cinnamon
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter
- 1 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese
- 2 cans (10 count and 12 ounces each) refrigerated biscuits
- 1½ cups coarsely chopped walnuts or pecans



OKSANA\_S | ISTOCK.COM

1. Mix the sugar and cinnamon. In a sauce pan, melt the butter and brown sugar over low heat, stirring well. Set aside.
2. Cut the cream cheese into 20 equal cubes. Press the biscuits flat and sprinkle each with ½ teaspoon of the cinnamon-sugar mixture. Place a cube of cream cheese in the center of each biscuit, wrapping and sealing the dough around it.
3. Sprinkle ½ cup of the nuts into the bottom of a greased Bundt pan. Place half of the prepared biscuits in the pan. Sprinkle with half of the remaining cinnamon sugar, pour half of the melted butter mixture and ½ cup of nuts over the biscuits. Layer the remaining biscuits on top. Sprinkle with the remaining cinnamon sugar. Pour the remaining butter mixture over the biscuits and sprinkle with the remaining nuts.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool 10 minutes. Place a serving plate on top of the Bundt pan and invert. Slice and serve warm or cool. Enjoy! 35500125



## Tri-County EC Member Recipe Submission Form

NAME

CITY

EMAIL or PHONE NUMBER

RECIPE NAME

**Please return to:**

**Email:** Please include the above information with your recipe and send to [pr@tcectexas.com](mailto:pr@tcectexas.com).

**Mail:** Please detach and submit this form with your recipe and mail to:  
Tri-County Electric Cooperative  
Attn: Recipe Submission  
600 NW Parkway  
Azle, TX 76020

## Tri-County Electric Cooperative

600 NW Parkway, Azle 76020

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jorden Wood, President
- Jerry A. Walden, Vice President
- Todd Smith, Secretary-Treasurer
- Jarrett Armstrong
- Steve V. Harris
- John Killough
- Larry Miller
- Max Waddell

### GENERAL MANAGER

Darryl Schriver

## Contact Us

### CALL US

**(817) 444-3201**

### FIND US ON THE WEB

**tcectexas.com**

### EMAIL US

**pr@tcectexas.com**

### COOPERATIVE OFFICES

#### Central Headquarters

600 NW Parkway, Azle, TX 76020  
(817) 444-3201

#### Southwest District Office

1623 Weatherford Highway, Granbury 76048  
(817) 279-7010

#### Northeast District Office

4900 Keller Hicks Road, Fort Worth 76244  
(817) 431-1541

#### B-K District Office

419 N. Main, Seymour 76380  
(940) 888-3441

### IT PAYS TO STAY INFORMED!

Find your account number in pages 18–25 of *Texas Co-op Power*, and you will receive a \$20 credit on your TCEC electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed above and make them aware of your discovery!



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