



www.fairfield.coop

MAILING ADDRESS

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Blythewood, SC 29016

BLYTHEWOOD OFFICE

701 Blythewood Road
Blythewood, SC 29016

WINNSBORO OFFICE

3129 U.S. Hwy. 321 North Winnsboro,
SC 29180

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Monday through Friday

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Toll Free: (800) 628-0336
Blythewood: (803) 754-0153
Winnsboro: (803) 635-4621
Camden and Lugoff: (803) 425-1059

POWER OUTAGE REPORTING ONLY
(800) 499-7862

Outages are handled by an automated outage reporting system. Please follow instructions. The system will automatically report the outage and a crew will be dispatched.

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



The power of preparation

WITH SEVERE WEATHER events occurring more frequently, now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, I want to remind members about the power of preparation. While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday prepper" level of preparedness, there are practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We certainly do it here at Fairfield Electric Cooperative. Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

Assemble a disaster kit Just as our trucks and warehouse are stocked with tools and materials to restore outages, you also should have essential items ready. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, a battery-powered radio and phone chargers. Organize your supplies so they are in an easily accessible location.

Develop a communication plan We know you like to be informed of restoration efforts, so we try to post that information on our website and social media feeds. Stay in contact with family and friends via text, social media and third parties to assure their safety and yours. Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your emergency plans, as well.

Have cash available During a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work. That's why it's also a good idea to have a full tank of gas in your vehicles. Our trucks are topped off at the end of each day, so they are ready to go.

Protect documents Store important documents like birth certificates and property deeds in a safe place away from your home, such as a bank safe deposit box.

Caring for the vulnerable Make sure family members with special needs have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them or consider having your relative stay with you. If you have an infant or young children, make certain that you have an ample supply of formula, diapers, medication and other supplies.

Keeping pets safe You can create an emergency kit for your four-legged family members, too. Include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies. Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergencies. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off. Microchip your pet, ensure the contact information is up to date and store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location.

At Fairfield Electric Cooperative, we know being prepared can keep a bad situation from being worse. Planning for an emergency today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.

BRUCE G. BACON

Chief Executive Officer

A summer to remember

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

IT WAS QUITE A SUMMER for four local high school students, thanks to Fairfield Electric Cooperative. The teens took part in a once-in-a-lifetime experience that went far beyond a traditional field trip.

Chris Nathaniel, Jolena Wallace, Khy Williamson and Chandler Mount joined 45 other South Carolina high school students sent by their electric cooperatives to Washington, D.C. in June. In addition to visiting the city's monuments and memorials, the students started their own co-op, met with legislators and their staffs and made new friends from across the state. Following visits to the offices of their U.S. representatives, the students spent time with both of South Carolina's U.S. Senators, Tim Scott and Lindsey Graham, who answered questions from the Youth Tourists during a meeting on the Capitol steps.

"It was a blessing that they were able to come and take photos and speak to us for a while," says Mount, a rising senior at Fairfield Central High School. "It really changes my opinion on politics a lot, because it's not what you see on the news."

The students also visited Mount Vernon, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Museum of the Marine Corps and the 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon.

"It's really good to know about the history, so you don't repeat it," says Wallace, who attends Lugoff-Elgin High School. "So it's good to know about the bad things in history, but it's also to remember that there are good things as well."

When they went to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the students used pencil and paper to create an etching of names on the wall representing soldiers from their hometowns. At the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, the students learned about the former president's role in helping to establish electric cooperatives across the nation.

"You know, a lot of kids from South Carolina don't get to go out of state," says Nathaniel, also a student at Fairfield Central High School. "It's really eye opening to be able to see all the different things that are out there for us to see."

Throughout the trip, the students participated in the Soda Pop Co-op. The co-op sold snacks and beverages to the students. Some of the students served as cooperative board members, others were a part of the management team. As member-consumers, Nathaniel, Wallace, Williamson and Mount each received \$9 in capital credits, their share of the co-op's end-of-trip margins.

"The trip was amazing," says Williamson. "I realized you can learn new things from different people and do things you never thought about doing."

Capitol Day, when Youth Tourists met with legislators, was a highlight for Fairfield Electric's (from left) Chris Nathaniel, Jolena Wallace, Khy Williamson and Chandler Mount.



PHOTOS BY JOSH P. CROTZER



Youth Tour coordinator Van O'Cain (left) was surprised to see Vernon Kennedy, a 2016 Youth Tourist from Fairfield Electric who now lives in Baltimore. Kennedy spoke to the students at NRECA's Youth Day and met with the Fairfield Electric contingent.