

AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

TOP 3 REASONS

ESSAY QUESTION:

"If you could witness one historical moment firsthand, what would it be and why?"

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol
3. A learning experience you'll never forget

JUNE 17 TO 23, 2023



WASHINGTON, D.C.

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC).
- If you have questions, please contact Jami Propp, LYREC, at 406-488-1602 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is **Dec. 6**. You can email entries to Jami Propp at scholarships@lyrec.coop or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, P.O. Box 1047, Sidney, MT 59270



CHECK OUT THE ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES AT
www.lyrec.coop



Power strips versus surge protectors

As the proliferation of electronics impacts our daily lives, we realize there simply are not enough outlets in our homes. This is particularly true for older homes. As a result, we end up with a number of “outlet expanders,” more commonly known as power strips.

Power strips are generic and fulfill a simple function. They are inexpensive, and the quality may be on par with the price.

Keeping this in mind, let’s look at factors to consider when purchasing a power strip or a surge protector, the power strip’s more talented cousin.

Important tip: Make sure you know the amperage rating of the outlet into which you are connecting the strip and other equipment. A residential circuit can overload if you are not careful.

Purchasing a power strip:

- Look for power strips with a built-in circuit breaker. If you connect too many electronics and devices, the strip will kick out the circuit breaker, rather than causing the breaker in your electric panel to trip.
- Pay attention to the orientation of the outlets. The typical design is along the length of the strip, facing the bottom or end of the strip. We recommend power strips with the outlets perpendicular to the length of the strip.
- Get a smart strip. These are becoming more common and less expensive. With smart strips, one outlet serves as a master, receiving power all the time. The other outlets do not receive power until the master device is turned on. This is ideal for home entertainment setups.

If you are connecting expensive electronics, you may want to consider a surge protector. Here, price is even

more important, because a cheap surge protector can be worse than none, for two reasons. First, they use cheap, small surge-fighting components. Secondly, these components can fail, and the strip will still provide power, all without any indication its protective side is gone.

Like power strips, there are some key factors to consider when buying a surge protector.

- Go for a significant joule rating. This is a measure of how much energy it can withstand.
- Cable and internet connection protection. You may want to consider this for your entertainment and computing needs, as surges can enter via any wired connection. Be sure the protector is designed to handle a digital television. Otherwise, it can cause pixilation if it’s only designed for analog signals.
- Indicator light that shows if protection has burned out.
- Power conditioning feature (for PCs, this is a nice-to-have feature, but not a necessity).
- A smart capability as mentioned above.

Power strips and surge protectors are worth the investment when you follow these simple suggestions. Do not get “burned” by purchasing cheap, inefficient strips and protectors. ■

Holiday closings

The Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative office will be closed Nov. 10 for Veterans Day and Nov. 24 and 25 for Thanksgiving.



Don't fall victim to utility scams

Every day, millions of Americans are targeted by scammers through phone calls, emails, text messages, online or in-person. Scammers' tactics can change daily, which is why it's important for consumers to stay on top of the latest scam reports.

Just last October, several Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) members were targeted through a phone scam in which the scammers demanded immediate payment and threatened to shut off power if the money was not received within the next 30 minutes.

Remember, LYREC will not call and demand immediate payment without notice or ask for your banking or credit card information over the phone. Instead, LYREC will direct you to a secure payment site or have you call 844-209-7159 to make a payment.

There seems to be two trending scam tactics. One is the overpayment trick, in which a scammer contacts you and claims you have overpaid your utility bill. The scammers will say they need your personal banking information to deposit the credit back to your checking account. Don't fall for this scam!

If you make an overpayment on your electric bill, LYREC will automatically credit your account, which will carry over to your next billing cycle. Another trending scam is smishing (short for SMS phishing).

Many consumers know to watch out for suspicious emails, but we tend to trust text messages sent to our smartphones. Always question suspicious texts. LYREC will only send you important updates via text if you've signed up for texts through SmartHub. These are just a couple examples of trending scams, so it's important to watch for any red flags.

Here are a few reminders when being targeted by a scammer:

- **Take your time.** Utility scammers try to create a sense of urgency so you'll act fast and hand over your personal information.
- **Be suspicious.** Scammers typically request immediate payments. LYREC will never request your banking information over the phone.
- **Confirm before you act.** If you're contacted by someone claiming to represent LYREC or another company, but you're unsure, just hang up and call the company directly.

Our increasingly connected world provides scammers with more opportunities to connect with unsuspecting consumers. Be vigilant, and please report any utility scams to LYREC, so we can let others in our community know. Together, we can help prevent our friends and neighbors from being victimized. ■

Need assistance heating your home this winter?

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) of Montana and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) of North Dakota are accepting applications. These programs assist Montana and North Dakota residents and families with their heating bills through the winter months.

Eligibility is based on your household income (all money brought into the household) and resources (any assets you have in the bank, property or real estate, CDs, and stocks and bonds).

If you currently reside in Montana

and need help paying your heating bill, you can contact Energy Share at 800-227-0703. If you live in North Dakota, you can contact Community Action at 701-572-8191. You may also download an application at www.lyrec.coop or call Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC).

Once you have submitted your application, it can take up to two months before receiving assistance. If you need assistance, please download an application today. Failure to provide all requested information and verification will delay the eligibility determination, and may result in application denial.

Below are the income eligibility criteria for Montana residents:

Number in household	Annual income
1.....	\$28,136
2.....	\$36,793
3.....	\$45,450
4.....	\$54,108

Below are the income eligibility criteria for North Dakota residents:

Number in household	Annual income
1.....	\$33,407
2.....	\$43,686
3.....	\$53,965
4.....	\$64,245

If you do not fall within these guidelines, but have an emergency and need assistance, please call LYREC at 406-488-1602 or 844-441-5627. ■

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Website: www.lyrec.com

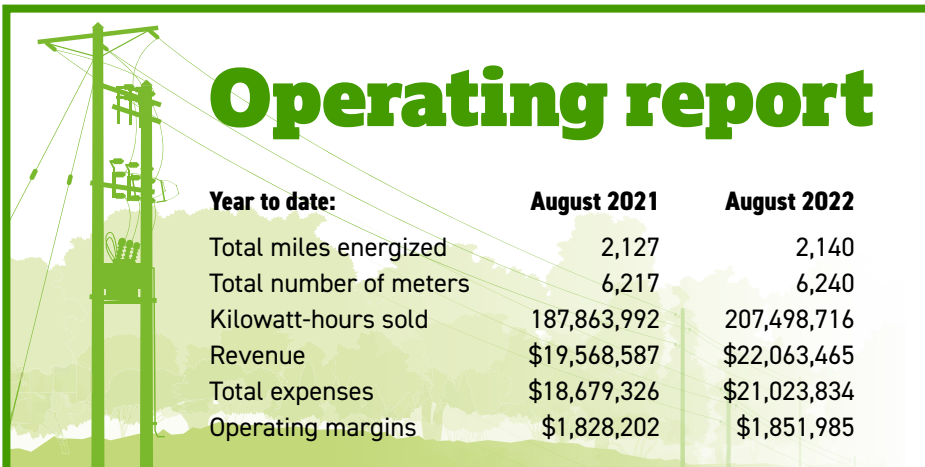
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Margo Zadow.....	Billing Coordinator
Pam Wilcoxon.....	Plant Accountant
Tiffani Hentges.....	Customer Service Representative
Melissa Buckley.....	Customer Service Representative
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Ryder Peterson.....	Journeyman Lineman
Cole Jankovsky.....	Journeyman Lineman
Lee Delp.....	Apprentice Lineman
Preston Long.....	Apprentice Lineman
Trey Schepens.....	Apprentice Lineman
Jory Bell.....	Apprentice Lineman
Brandon Mueller.....	Master Electrician
Mike Eberling.....	Mechanic
Dan Gieser.....	EMS
Lee Alvstad.....	Mechanic/EMS
Richard Tremblay.....	EMS
Bo Kindopp.....	GIS/Easement Technician
Corey Candee.....	Chief Information Officer
Jeremy Reese.....	Information Technology Technician
Edwin Gatzke.....	Line Locator/Groundsman
Justin King.....	Warehouse Supervisor

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Operating report

Year to date:	August 2021	August 2022
Total miles energized	2,127	2,140
Total number of meters	6,217	6,240
Kilowatt-hours sold	187,863,992	207,498,716
Revenue	\$19,568,587	\$22,063,465
Total expenses	\$18,679,326	\$21,023,834
Operating margins	\$1,828,202	\$1,851,985