



Sawnee EMC energy reminder:
Small changes can lead to meaningful savings over time. As temperatures shift this fall, take a few minutes to prepare your home for cooler days and keep comfort at the center of your energy-efficiency plan.

October Is National Cooperative Month

Each October, cooperatives across the country take time to celebrate National Cooperative Month — a reminder that some businesses are built a little differently. At Sawnee EMC, that difference is at the heart of everything we do. Sawnee EMC was built around a simple idea: *neighbors working together to bring reliable, affordable electricity to the communities they call home.*

The cooperative business model is rooted in local service, accountability and shared purpose. Electric cooperatives were created when many rural and growing communities needed dependable access to electricity, but traditional power companies were not always willing to serve them. Across America, local residents joined together to form electric cooperatives and bring power to homes, farms and businesses that needed it most.

That same cooperative spirit continues today, and National Cooperative Month is a good time to remember that membership carries meaning. That member-first approach shows up in many ways. It can be seen in long-term planning to maintain and strengthen the electric

system, in efforts to restore power safely and efficiently after storms, and in the commitment to provide helpful information so members can make smart energy decisions at home and at work.

It also shows up in the cooperative tradition of returning value to members. Because electric cooperatives operate on a not-for-profit basis, margins are reinvested into the system or, when appropriate, returned to members through capital credits. That is one of the clearest examples of the cooperative difference: when the cooperative does well, members share in that success.

The cooperative story is about more than poles, wires and meters. It is about a local organization that invests in reliability, supports the community and remains focused on serving members today while preparing for tomorrow. As technology changes and energy needs grow, the cooperative model continues to provide a strong foundation for thoughtful planning and dependable service.

Your membership powers more than electricity; it helps power our community!



Here's WATTS Cookin' Pesto Chicken Wrap

Ingredients:

- Large flour tortillas
- 2 cups shredded rotisserie chicken
- ½ cup basil pesto
- 1 cup fresh spinach
- ½ cup crumbled feta cheese

Directions:

Mix chicken and pesto in a bowl. Layer spinach, pesto chicken, and feta onto tortillas. Roll up tightly and slice.

👉 Thanks to Roxanne Vaughan for the recipe! Do you have a recipe to share with us? If we print it, we'll credit your account \$5.00. Send your favorite recipe to marketing@sawnee.coop.

THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

Volume 46 • Issue 10

Sawnee EMC Members with High School Students Have Two Big Opportunities

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FOR THE 2027 SAWNEE ELECTRIC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND THE WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR.

For local students who are ready to take the next step—whether that means preparing for college, building leadership skills or seeing history come to life—Sawnee EMC has two exciting opportunities worth putting on the calendar.

Sawnee Electric Foundation Scholarship Program

The Sawnee Electric Foundation Scholarship Program helps high school seniors continue their education after graduation. Eligible students must be high school seniors whose permanent residence receives electric service from Sawnee EMC, and applicants must have a graduating GPA of 2.0 or higher.

The application asks students to share more than grades and test scores. It is also a chance to tell their story—the activities, experiences, challenges and goals that have shaped who they are and where they hope to go next.

Deadline: Completed scholarship applications and all required documents must be received by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 8, 2027**. Additional details and application materials are available at sawnee.coop/scholarships.

Washington Youth Tour

The Washington Youth Tour is a once-in-a-lifetime leadership experience that gives selected students an all-expenses-paid opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., meet state and national leaders, participate in leadership activities and explore many of the nation's most recognizable landmarks.

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QUOTABLE QUOTE

Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value. "

— Albert Einstein

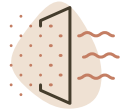
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Small Tricks, Big Savings: An October Energy Guide for Sawnee EMC Members

October has a way of sneaking in through the screen door. One minute we are still reaching for iced tea, and the next we are lighting pumpkin candles, hunting for a favorite sweater and wondering if it is too soon to turn on the heat. While fall in north Georgia can feel like one big guessing game, your home is already making tiny energy decisions every day.

Think of your house as a friendly, but slightly forgetful roommate. It wants to keep you comfortable, but sometimes it leaves lights on, lets warm air slip out around doors and windows, runs appliances when they are only half full and forgets that the ceiling fan can do more than stir summer air. The good news? You do not have to overhaul your home to make a difference. A few small habits can help your home work smarter as cooler weather rolls in.



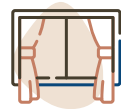
Put Your Home on “Sweater Weather” Mode

Before the first real cold snap arrives, take a slow lap around your home and look for the quiet energy escape artists: gaps around doors, drafty windows, attic hatches and outlets on exterior walls. Weatherstripping, caulk and simple foam gaskets are inexpensive fixes that can help keep conditioned air where it belongs. It is not glamorous, but neither is paying to heat the front porch.



Flip the Fan Script

Here is a fall trick many people forget: ceiling fans can help in cooler weather, too. When set to rotate clockwise on a low speed, a fan can gently push warm air near the ceiling back down into the room. It will not replace your heating system, but it can help a comfortable room feel just a little more comfortable.



Let the Sun Be Your Free Space Heater

October sunlight is underrated. Open curtains during sunny parts of the day to let natural warmth in, then close them as evening arrives to help hold that warmth inside. It is one of the simplest energy-saving habits there is, and it makes a room feel brighter, cozier and more inviting.



Give Your Thermostat a Fall Personality

Your thermostat does not need to live at one temperature all season. On mild October days, let fresh air and sunshine do some of the work. When heat is needed, consider setting the thermostat a little lower when you are sleeping or away from home. A programmable or smart thermostat can make those changes automatically, which is perfect for anyone who has ever left the house and immediately wondered, “Did I turn that down?”



Beware of the Energy Vampires

October is the season of spooky stories, so here is one from your outlet: chargers, gaming systems, small appliances and electronics can draw power even when they are not in active use. This “phantom” energy use may be small by itself, but it adds up over time. Unplug what you do not use often, or use a power strip so several items can be switched off at once.



Try the 10-Minute October Energy Hunt

This month, invite your household to do a quick energy scavenger hunt. Find one draft to seal, one bulb to swap for an LED, one filter to check, one device to unplug and one sunny window to open during the day. That is it - five small wins in ten minutes. No hard hats, no complicated tools and no lecture required.

Energy efficiency works best when it feels doable. It is not about sitting in the dark or shivering through movie night. It is about noticing the little places where energy slips away and making small choices that help your home stay comfortable, especially as the seasons change. This October, give your home a little attention before winter arrives. Your future self—and your energy bill—may thank you.

Questions? Contact Sawnee EMC Energy Services Team at **770-887-2363** or via email at marketing@sawnee.coop.

Big Opportunities

(continued from page 1)

Through an application and interview process, selected students represent Sawnee EMC alongside more than 1,400 students from electric cooperatives across the country. It is part history lesson, part leadership workshop and part unforgettable summer adventure.

Deadline: Completed Washington Youth Tour applications and all required documents must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 30, 2026. Learn more at sawnee.coop/washington-youth-tour.

Both programs reflect the Sawnee Electric Foundation’s continued investment in education, leadership and the communities Sawnee EMC serves. Families are encouraged to review the requirements early, gather the needed materials and share these opportunities with students who are ready to dream big, lead well and make the most of what comes next.

For more information, please contact Sawnee EMC at **770-887-2363** or email scholarships@sawnee.coop.




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