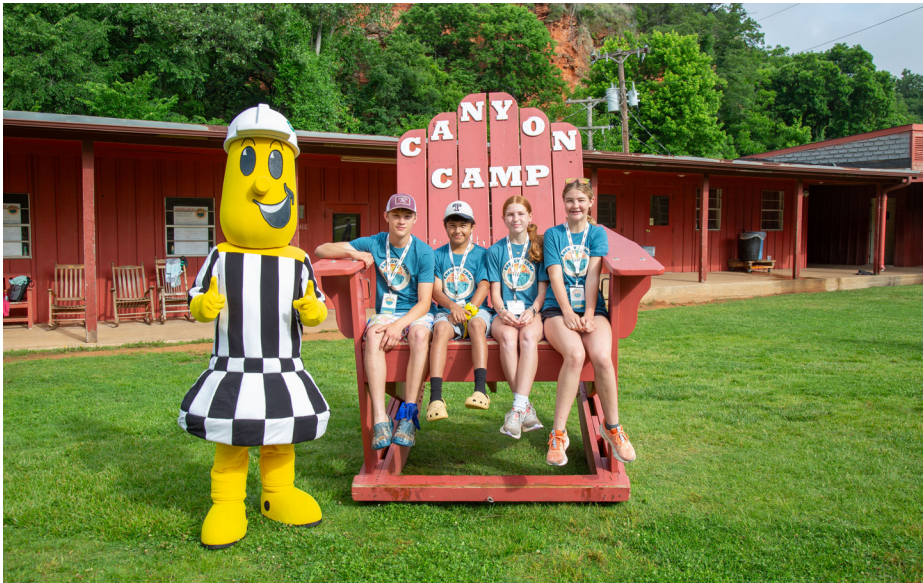




the COOPERATOR

JULY 2025 | For the members of Kay Electric Cooperative
A supplement to Oklahoma Living



Above: Energy Campers Reid Schneeberger, Carlos Cabrera, Ava McAninch and Addison Reinschmiedt represented Kay Electric at Energy Camp in Hinton, May 27–30. Top right: Addison Reinschmiedt climbs a utility pole. Middle: Seventy-two students from across Oklahoma participated in Energy Camp. Bottom right: Ava McAninch enjoys a group game with fellow campers.

Empowering Future Leaders

Oklahoma Energy Camp ignites student potential

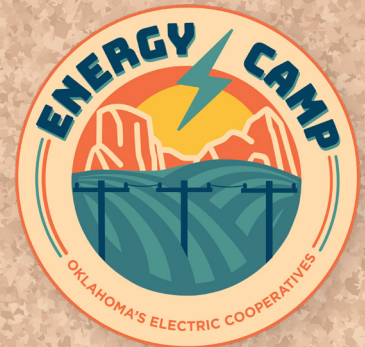
Each summer, Kay Electric invests in future leaders by sending students to Energy Camp. This year, four local eighth-graders took part in the experience. Representing the co-op were Carlos Cabrera and Addison Reinschmiedt from Garber Middle School, Ava McAninch from Tonkawa Middle School, and Reid Schneeberger from Newkirk Middle School.

Held May 27–30 at Canyon Camp in Hinton, Oklahoma, the camp gave students the chance to swim, hike and build new friendships. They also explored the vital role electric cooperatives play in power-

ing rural communities.

Through hands-on activities like pole climbing, safety demonstrations and observing line crews in action, students learned how electricity reaches homes and businesses—and what it takes to keep the lights on. Along the way, they built confidence, practiced leadership, and got a firsthand look at career opportunities in the energy industry.

Participants were selected through an application process. To learn more, visit www.kayelectric.coop/youth. 🇺🇸





OUR MISSION

Founded in 1937, Kay Electric Co-operative remains focused on our primary mission: to provide safe, affordable and reliable power for our member-owners. Today, our service territory includes 2,263 miles of line and more than 5,900 meters located in Kay, Grant, Noble, Osage and Garfield counties.

CONTACT US

Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
580-363-1260 | 800-535-1079
300 W. Doolin Ave.
Blackwell, OK 74631
www.kayelectric.coop

REPORT AN OUTAGE

Call 800-535-1079 or report via SmartHub at www.kayelectric.coop or download the SmartHub app for smartphone or tablet.

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- Pay via automatic draft of your bank account or credit card. Sign up at www.kayelectric.coop.



Co-op volunteers make a difference at the Oklahoma Special Olympics Summer Games

Each spring, volunteers from Oklahoma's electric cooperatives come together to support the Oklahoma Special Olympics Summer State Games in Stillwater. The 2025 event, held May 14–16, drew 155 volunteers from 25 co-ops who supported 5,062 athletes during the three-

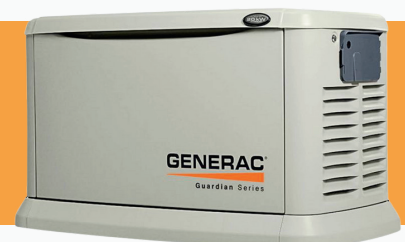
day event. Ruby Clark represented Kay Electric at the competition. For three decades co-op employees, directors, managers and retirees have volunteered with Special Olympics, typically making up one of the largest volunteer groups at the games. 🇺🇸

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Watch the Clock to Lock in Summer Savings

As temperatures rise and summer activities heat up, a reliable flow of electricity is essential to ensure Kay Electric members stay cool and connected.

Summer brings some of the most extreme temperatures, which means people will be spending more time indoors to avoid the heat, and air conditioners will be working overtime. This increased use of electricity will cause spikes in demand, also known as energy peaks. During peak times, Kay Electric must work closely with our wholesale power provider to ensure a balanced supply of electricity is always available to meet our community's energy needs.

The electric grid is essentially a giant network that connects power plants, utility poles and power lines to homes and businesses across the country, throughout our state and to our local communities. All parts of the network must work together to ensure the flow of electricity stays balanced 24/7.

When the demand for electricity is higher than usual, power providers must ramp up electricity production—whether from coal, natural gas, wind, solar or other energy sources—and utilities will pay more for electricity produced during the peak. These higher prices along with the general increase in electricity use are why you typically see higher bills during the hottest months. In extreme cases, demand can overpower the available supply, causing electricity shortages. During these times, utilities are required to implement rolling power outages to reduce the demand for electricity and re-balance the grid.

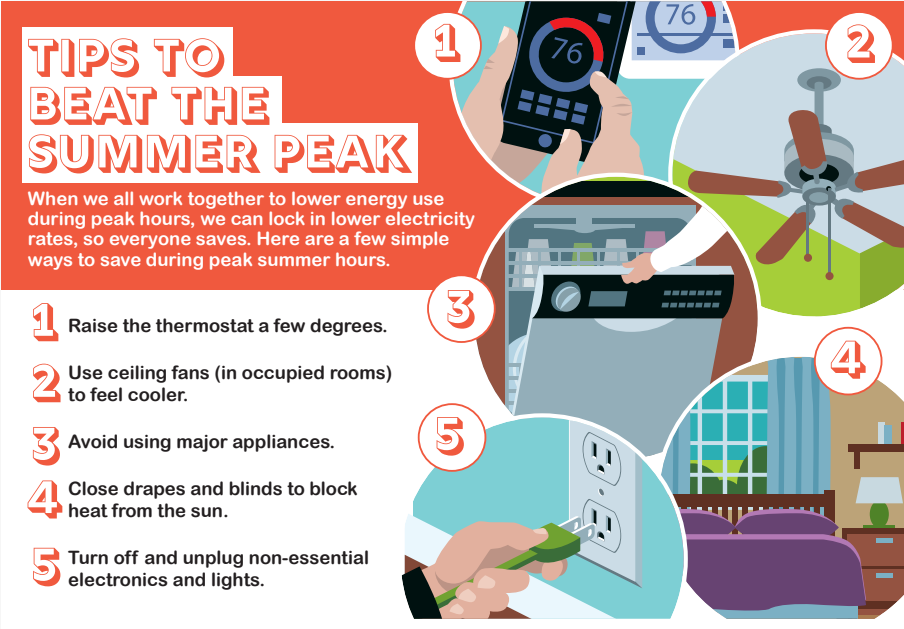
When our area experiences extreme summer heat and higher demand for electricity, you can help by conserving energy. It's easy—just check the clock and avoid your energy-intensive activities and chores during peak hours. Kay Electric's peak hours during summer months are 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

When we all work together to reduce

TIPS TO BEAT THE SUMMER PEAK

When we all work together to lower energy use during peak hours, we can lock in lower electricity rates, so everyone saves. Here are a few simple ways to save during peak summer hours.

- 1 Raise the thermostat a few degrees.
- 2 Use ceiling fans (in occupied rooms) to feel cooler.
- 3 Avoid using major appliances.
- 4 Close drapes and blinds to block heat from the sun.
- 5 Turn off and unplug non-essential electronics and lights.



energy use during peak times, Kay Electric can lock in lower electricity rates so everyone in our community saves. Conserving during peak times also eases pressure on the grid and helps balance the supply and demand of electricity.

There are many ways to lower your home energy use. Here are a few recommendations to help you save energy (and money) during the summer peak:

- Set your thermostat a few degrees higher. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings so your cooling system syncs with the off-peak hours.
- Speaking of raising the thermostat, did you know ceiling fans can make you feel 4 degrees cooler? Operate ceiling or oscillating fans in occupied rooms to supplement your air conditioning. Be sure to raise the thermostat while fans are running for maximum energy savings. Remember, fans cool people (not

homes), so turn them off when you leave the room.

- Plan energy-intensive activities like laundry and running the dishwasher for off-peak hours. Use automatic timers to run hot tubs, pool pumps, water heaters and other appliances in the same way.
- Unplug electronics when they're not in use or use power strips to manage devices.
- Close drapes and blinds during the afternoon to block unnecessary heat from sunlight. 1252502

When we all work together to beat the summer peak, our entire community benefits. Saving energy during peak times reduces your bills, keeps electric rates lower for all and relieves pressure on the grid.

To learn more about why time of use matters, visit <https://kayelectric.coop/peak-alert>. 🌞

Peak energy hours may be called between June 20 and September 9, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Be sure to check our Facebook page and our website for when our power supplier calls a peak day.

GOOD COOKIN'

Watermelon Salsa

Ingredients

- 3 cups finely diced seedless watermelon
- 2 jalapeno peppers, seeded and minced
- 1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped orange bell pepper
- 1/2 bunch cilantro, chopped
- 1/4 cup lime juice
- 1/2 cup minced red onion
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Instructions

Place watermelon, peppers, cilantro, lime juice and onion in a medium bowl. Stir well to combine. Season with salt. Serve with tortilla chips.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat such as clothes dryers and dishwashers during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening will reduce indoor heat gain during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and ultimately keep your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.

Source: energy.gov

4th of July

Our office will be closed Friday, July 4, in celebration of Independence Day. In case of an outage, please call 800-535-1079.

\$25 is hiding in this issue!

If you spot your account number hidden in these pages, please contact Kay Electric to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill. If no account numbers are claimed, the prize money will carry over to the next month for a maximum bill credit of \$50. Call 800-535-1079 or email contact@kayelectric.coop to claim your prize.

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