

Rayle Lines

Member Newsletter



September 2025

The Official Newsletter of Rayle Electric Membership Corporation

Local students represent Rayle EMC on the Washington Youth Tour

Outstanding students from across Georgia, including Callie Bridges of Lexington, Kate McWhorter of Lincolnton and Jake Huff of Winterville recently returned from the Washington Youth Tour, a life-changing, weeklong leadership experience sponsored by Georgia's electric membership corporations, including Rayle EMC.



From June 13-20, Bridges, McWhorter and Huff joined more than 1,800 high school students from across the country in Washington, D.C., where they explored our nation's capital, developed leadership skills and discovered the importance of civic involvement and community service.

"This experience provides a powerful, real-world lesson in history, leadership and community impact that can't be taught in a classroom," says Richard Heard, Director of Member Services at Rayle EMC. "By visiting the places where history was made, students gain a deeper appreciation of their role in shaping the future."

The 2025 Georgia delegation included 116 student delegates, 14 chaperones and three tour directors. The journey kicked off with a banquet in Atlanta, celebrating the delegates and their families before the group traveled to D.C.

While in the nation's capital, students visited iconic sites including Mount Vernon, Arlington National

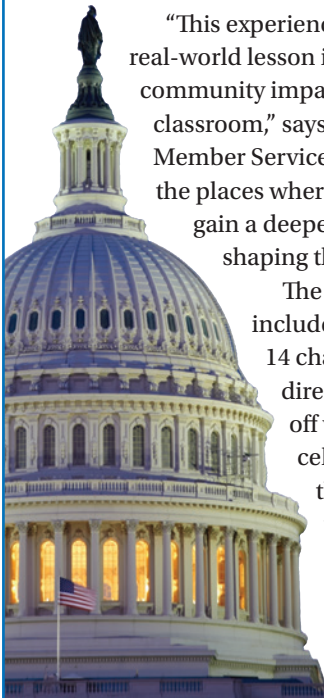


From left: Callie Bridges of Lexington, Jake Huff of Winterville and Kate McWhorter of Lincolnton recently represented Rayle EMC on the Washington Youth Tour.

Cemetery, the U.S. Capitol, Supreme Court, Library of Congress and the Smithsonian museums. They also toured revered memorials honoring Jefferson, Lincoln, FDR, MLK and veterans of World War II, Vietnam and Korea.

Georgia's delegates participated in a dinner cruise on the Cherry Blossom Riverboat, where they took in historic

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Outage text notifications

Rayle EMC's outage text alert program, TextPower, provides a convenient way to stay connected during a power outage.

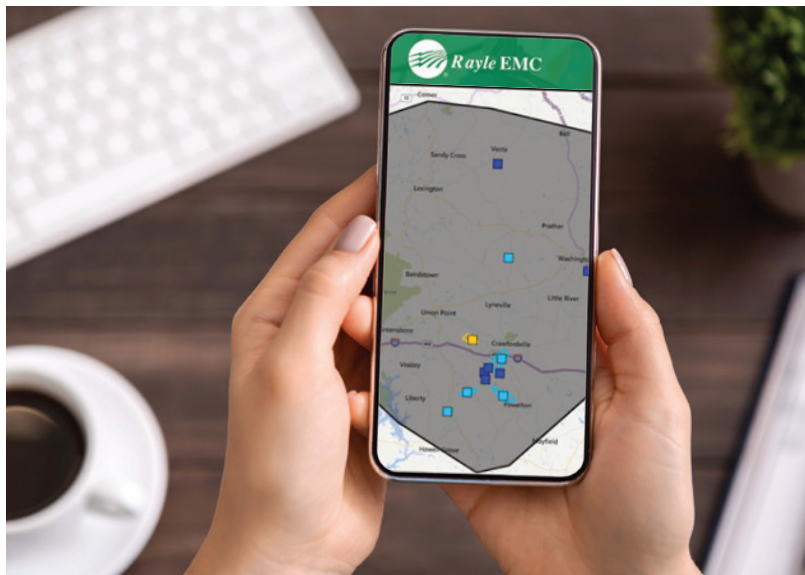
Receiving text notifications from Rayle EMC puts information about power outages in the palm of your hand. Using the everyday convenience of text messaging, you can quickly and easily text us to report an outage. Once we've assessed the situation, we'll text you to let you know when your power has been restored.

Set up text alerts

Use your mobile phone to text **RAYLE** to **85700**. Follow the on-screen steps and you will be registered in no time.

Alternatively, you can sign up online at www.rayleemc.com or contact your local office. This program is available without charge to all consumers. Please note that standard message and data rates may apply through your carrier.

What messages will I get? You will receive two different outage messages. One will notify you when we have enough reports of the outage to start the repair process. The other will notify you when power has been restored.



The next time you experience a power outage use the following prompts to instantly report and receive update outage information.

85700

Number to text to communicate about Rayle EMC power outage.

RAYLE

The initial text to send to opt-in to participate in the text program (number must be on file in your Rayle EMC account to activate).

OUT

Text OUT to report an outage at the service address associated with your mobile number.

QUIT

Cancels participation in outage text alerts.

HELP

Provides information about Rayle EMC's text program and a number to call for additional support.

Washington Youth Tour, *Continued from page 22A*

sites from the Potomac River and enjoyed a night of fellowship.

Beyond the monuments, students engaged in thoughtful discussions on current events and civic responsibility by attending an informational congressional luncheon where students had the opportunity to visit with congressional staffers and Sens. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff. Delegates also participated

in National Youth Day, hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, where keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, an Olympic gold medalist and author, shared his inspiring story of resilience and determination.

The Washington Youth Tour has impacted nearly 50,000 students nationwide since its inception. Alumni have gone on to lead in

science, business and government—including the U.S. Senate—and many continue to serve their communities at local and state levels.

"The connections these students make and the experiences they share have the power to shape their future and our communities for years to come," Heard said.

Rayle EMC adds two new employees

Rayle EMC General Manager Tony Griffin announces the addition of two new employees: Wesley Stamper and Jaxon Herrin. Stamper will be working in the Washington District and Herrin will be working in the Greensboro District.

Wesley Stamper of

Washington began his career with Rayle EMC on June 23, 2025, as Serviceman Trainee in the Washington District. Stamper is a 2016 graduate of Lincoln County High School. He is the son of Mechelle Stamper of Washington and has two sisters, Cayla Stamper of Evans and Megan Stamper of Hephzibah. Stamper is married to the former Sara West of White Plains. They attend Hephzibah Baptist Church in Lincolnton. Prior to joining Rayle EMC, Stamper worked at Relyant Communications in Washington. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting and spending quality time with family.



Wesley Stamper

Jaxon Herrin

of Greensboro began his career with Rayle EMC on June 30, 2025, as a Serviceman Trainee in the Greensboro District. Herrin is a 2024 graduate of Lake Oconee Academy. He is the son of Jack and Renna Herrin of Penfield and has two brothers, Collin Herrin and Landon Herrin of Penfield. Before joining Rayle EMC, Herrin worked for Pike Electric. During his spare time, he enjoys spending time with family and friends on the lake.



Jaxon Herrin

Stay safe with outdoor lighting

Adding outdoor lights around your home is one of the best ways to protect it from break-ins. You can add safety and style with a few well-placed lights.

Some tips:

- Place a light at every entry point to your home; above or beside windows and doors, including the garage door.
- Mount lighting fixtures on exterior walls near first-floor and basement windows to discourage burglars.
- Illuminate your front, back and side yards with floodlights so nobody can skulk around without being seen.
- Light up your driveway with pathway lights and another light above the

garage door to reduce the chances someone will break into your car.

- Send a message to prowlers that the neighbors will notice them. Mount lanterns in trees to pour light into your yard and onto your deck. Likewise, post up lights at the base of trees and shrubs.
- If you have a security camera or a security system warning sign, train a light on it so it's visible to intruders.
- Arrange outdoor lights so they're high enough to be out of the reach of vandals—9 feet off the ground.
- Rig your outdoor lights to a timer so they come on at dusk and off at dawn. That way, you'll have light around your house all night.
- Take care with placement so



light doesn't glare into your home or your neighbor's.

- If your lights are rigged to motion detectors, set them so they "see" what's going on near your house, but so they're not sensitive enough to trip when birds, bats or bugs fly around them.

Annual Wilkes-Lincoln Farm Safety Camp

The Wilkes-Lincoln Farm Safety Camp was held Thursday, May 29, at the McGill-Woodruff Agricultural Center in Washington, with 127 pre-registered campers. The camp featured classes for children ages 6-11 on fire safety, horse safety, ATV safety, electrical safety, seat belt safety, a dairy cow milk demonstration, gun safety and boat safety,

The \$10 registration fee for each child included a T-shirt, lunch, two snacks throughout the day and a gift bag full of assorted goodies for each child. Each child was also entered in a drawing for a grand prize. Two bicycles were given away as grand prizes: Logan Parton of Lincolnton and Addie Osborne of Washington each won a bicycle.

Rayle EMC employees Madeline Callaway, Richard Heard, Scott Kennedy and Suzie Weaver volunteered to lead groups around to each demonstration. Rayle EMC employees Paul Wright and Ronnie Mann led the electrical safety presentation. Wright taught the children the dangers associated with electricity and provided safety tips to help the children under-



Ronnie Mann, left, and Paul Wright present a high-voltage safety demonstration showing the dangers of coming in contact with energized lines.

stand the importance of staying away from fallen power lines.

The ATV safety demonstration was provided by Kyle Brown, Rayle EMC Director, and Kyle Wilson, Wilkes County Young Farmer Advisor. They reviewed safety guidelines

the children should follow when around an ATV.

The Farm Safety Camp was created to help increase safety awareness in our local children by communicating how to avoid dangers associated with rural farm activities.

Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Take advantage of “shoulder months,” which refer to the transitional periods between peak heating and cooling seasons. During the fall, these milder weeks typically occur between September and November. Shoulder months offer a great opportunity to reduce home energy consumption as the need for extensive heating or cooling is reduced. Look for simple ways to boost indoor comfort without running your heating and cooling system. Use ceiling fans and open windows on breezy days to ventilate your home. On cooler days, add a layer of clothing and avoid running the heat.

