

Youth Tour: A Cooperative Tradition, Nearly 70 Years Strong

Each summer, high school students from across the country travel to Washington, D.C., to see government in action and learn how their voices can shape the communities they call home. For nearly 70 years, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has given students that opportunity, offering an up-close look at democracy, leadership and the cooperative model. The annual trip helps students better understand American government and the role electric cooperatives play in their communities, often inspiring them to become stronger civic and community leaders.



The Start of Youth Tour

It all began with a challenge to electric cooperatives. In 1957, then-Texas Sen. Lyndon Johnson addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual meeting in Chicago, encouraging cooperatives to send young people to Washington, D.C., so they could see firsthand what the flag represents.

The next summer, 34 students from Iowa made the first trip. Other states soon followed, including Minnesota in 1966. Today, electric cooperatives in nearly every state send delegations to the capital each June. Nearly 100,000 students have participated over the years, including about three dozen from Minnesota each summer.

Minnesota students now join roughly 1,800 peers from across the country for the annual Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Throughout the week, they take part in sessions on the cooperative model, American government and leadership development, while also hearing from inspirational speakers.



A Lasting Impact

Students describe Youth Tour as a memorable and meaningful trip of a lifetime. Member number seven hundred fifty six thousand one hundred seventy two. Some return home inspired to pursue public service, while others apply what they learned by becoming stronger leaders and more engaged community members.

Over time, some Youth Tour alumni even reconnect with their local electric cooperatives as employees, board members or engaged member-owners.

Electric cooperatives took shape in the 1930s because many rural communities had been left without service. When investor-owned utilities chose not to extend power to rural America, farmers and neighbors organized, pooled their resources and built the lines themselves. That same spirit of local action continues to define cooperatives today.

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Cooperatives are owned by the members they serve and led by boards elected from within those communities. Programs like Youth Tour reflect the same commitment to local engagement and democratic participation that has kept the cooperative model strong for nearly a century. Member number six hundred ninety seven thousand two hundred thirty. Each June, the students who travel to the nation's capital serve as an annual reminder of what sets cooperatives apart.

CLP'S 2026 Youth Tour Delegate Erik Gischia

"My past week in our nation's capital was a trip of a lifetime. The city



was filled not only with the iconic American landmarks and monuments, but also with hundreds of other students from around the country who were all very friendly. I am very grateful to have had this experience to tour the area, meet with congresspeople, and even meet Abe Lincoln". Erik Gischia"



The Cooperative Difference Is Community



Carey Hogenson
CEO

Summer is a special time on the beautiful North Shore. One of my favorite parts of the season is seeing our employees out in the communities we serve. Whether it's the Two Harbors City Band Ice Cream Social, Bay Days, Heritage Days, the Lake County Fair, or another local celebration, these events give us the opportunity to connect with members outside of restoring power or answering questions at the office.

Community events are a powerful reminder that Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) is about much more than electricity. Our employees are your neighbors. They volunteer with local organizations, support community events, raise their families here, and care deeply about the same communities our members call home. Those local connections are among the things that make our cooperative so special.

While summer brings opportunities to gather and celebrate, it's also one of our busiest times of the year. Behind the scenes, our line crews continue to maintain and improve our electric system, while employees across the cooperative work every day to support our members and prepare for the future. Much of this work isn't always visible, but every project completed today helps strengthen the reliability of our system for tomorrow.

One of the things I've enjoyed most since becoming CEO is seeing the cooperative spirit come to life in so many ways. Whether it's volunteering in the community, visiting with members along a parade route, or simply seeing neighbors help neighbors, I'm reminded that cooperatives were built on the idea that people are stronger when they work together. That principle has guided CLP since 1936 and continues to guide our work every day.

As summer continues and we look toward fall, I hope you'll take a moment to stop by if you see the CLP team at a community event. We always enjoy hearing your ideas, catching up with familiar faces, and spending time in the communities we're proud to serve.

Thank you for your continued support of CLP. It is a privilege to serve our members and the communities we all call home. I hope you have a safe and enjoyable rest of your summer.



Help Stock the CLP Caring Closets for the 2026–2027 School Year

Since launching the CLP Caring Closet program in 2021, Cooperative Light & Power has partnered with local schools to help ensure students have access to everyday essentials. These Caring Closets provide personal hygiene items, toiletries, clothing, and other necessities for students who may need a little extra support at home or during the school day.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our members and community, the program has continued to grow and make a meaningful difference in the lives of local students.

As a new school year begins, we're once again asking for your help to restock the Caring Closets. Member number seven hundred forty seven thousand one hundred thirty five. Your donations help ensure students have the basic essentials they need to feel confident, stay healthy, and focus on learning.

Thank you for helping us support local students and strengthen the communities we proudly serve. The items listed below have been specifically requested by our local schools for the 2026–2027 school year.

Every donation, no matter the size, can make a meaningful difference for a student. Donations can be dropped off at the CLP office.

- Lip Balm
- Toothpaste (Travel Size)
- Lotion (Travel Size)
- Deodorant (Travel Size)
- Men's Sweatpants (all sizes)
- Water Bottles
- Women's Underwear (All sizes)
- Feminine products (Thinner maxi pads (not pantliners) and Tampons (Non-cardboard ones)(All sizes)

TIP TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

One of the best ways to protect yourself from online scams is by using strong passwords. While many people focus on complexity adding symbols, numbers and capital letters, password length is equally important. A longer password or passphrase is generally harder for cybercriminals to crack than a short, complex one. Consider creating a memorable phrase made up of several unrelated words, and avoid using personal information like birthdays or pet names. Member number six hundred eighty thousand six hundred forty four. Use a unique password for each account and enable multi-factor authentication when possible. Taking these simple steps can help keep your personal information and online accounts secure. *Source: CISA*



CLP is proud to support local students through the Westholm Scholarship Program. Congratulations to this year's recipients. We wish you continued success in your academic journey and beyond.



Brooke Torgerson

Two Harbors High School



Emerson Bracken

Two Harbors High School



Kennedy Gilbert

Two Harbors High School



Sophie Betzler

William Kelley High School



McKenna Monger

Orono High School



Russell Hill

Duluth East High School

CLP Office

Summer Business Hours:

Monday - Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Address: 1554 Highway 2, PO Box 69
Two Harbors, MN 55616

Office Phone: (218) 834-2226 or
(800) 580-5881

Power Outage (24/7): (800) 927-5550

Website: www.clpower.com

Your CEO & Board

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Steve Josephson, Treasurer, District 4

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Roger Peterson, President, District 5

rpeterson@clpower.com or (218) 226-8197

Board Meeting Minutes

please go to: www.clpower.com/board-meeting-minutes

*Cooperative Light & Power
is an equal opportunity
provider and employer*



In the Know: Important Reminder for Budget Billing Members

Understanding Your Budget Billing Reconciliation

This month's statement includes your annual Budget Billing reconciliation. CLP reviews your account each year to compare your actual electric costs with the payments made throughout the year. Any balance due or credit is reflected on your current statement.

Your new Budget Billing year begins with your September statement. Your monthly payment may be adjusted based on your updated energy use and current electric rates.

Why Budget Billing?

Budget Billing averages your electric costs throughout the year, so your monthly payments stay more consistent and easier to budget for.

Questions?

Call Alexi at 218-834-2226 or 800-580-5881



Consistent Payments • Easier Budgeting • No Winter Bill Surprises



Member Recipe: Applesauce Bread

From the Kitchen of:
Vicki Johnson



Directions:

1. Combine liquid ingredients & sugar
2. Stir in flour & spices
3. Bake in a loaf pan at 350 degrees until golden

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 c. flour
- 1 c. applesauce
- 1 3/4 c. sugar
- 1/2 c. oil
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp. cloves
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Share Your Favorite Recipes!

Have a recipe you'd like to share with fellow members? Submit it to office@clpower.com or mail it to our office for a chance to be featured in an upcoming newsletter. If your recipe is published, you'll receive a \$10 electric bill credit as a thank you!

Dates to Know...



Aug 25: CLP Bills Due



Aug 26: CLP Board Meeting



Sept 7: Labor Day
CLP Offices will be closed



Sept 23: CLP Board Meeting



Sept 25: CLP Bill Due



Sept 28: Winter Hours Begin

NOTE: CLP dates subject to change

April YTD Financials Highlights

Members Billed



2026: 6,553
2025: 6,523

Average Cost



kWh Used, Residential
2026: \$0.1521
2025: \$0.1415

Cost of Purchased Power



2026: \$3,689,959
2025: \$3,469,708

Total Cost of Electric Service



2026: \$6,299,408
2025: \$5,815,586

Line Loss



2026: 4.76%
2025: 3.92%

YTD Operating Revenue



2026: \$6,068,993
2025: \$6,084,153

Other Operating Expenses



2026: \$2,609,449
2025: \$2,345,878

YTD Total Margins



2026: (\$197,003)
2025: \$341,486



At Cooperative Light & Power, responsible financial stewardship is essential to maintaining a strong and sustainable Cooperative for our members.



For the monthly financial summary report, visit our website: clpower.com/monthly-financial-summary.



Spot Your Number

Each month, four account numbers are hidden throughout the newsletter. Find yours and contact CLP by the end of the month to receive a \$20 credit on your electric bill.

Credits claimed for June: Scott & Rita Hart,
Steve & Luann Peters

Credits not claimed: Tom & Amy Hazelton,
Mitch Costley

Operation Round Up Totals

June Donations: \$1,735.54

Year-to-date Donations: \$9,459.65

Thank you to all who participate! For questions about Operation Round Up or to apply for a grant, contact CLP at 218.834.2226 or 800.580.5881, or visit CLP's website www.clpower.com

Call Before You Dig

800.252.1166 or 811 it's the law!

Call 800.252.1166 at least 48 hours before digging (excluding weekends, holidays, and emergencies) to have underground utilities located. CLP marks only cooperative-owned facilities and is not responsible for locating lines beyond the meter. Protect yourself and your project.