

SWRE POWER SOURCE

A Supplement to Oklahoma Living





Youth Tour delegates were honored at a dinner with the SWRE Board of Directors in June. Front Row: Alee Davis and Brooke Templeton. Back Row: Corwin Petzold, Don Ellis, Dan Elsener, Carl Brockriede, Dan White, Ronnie Swan, and Don Proctor.

THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE

Most consumers would not equate active involvement in their electric company with helping their community. But Southwest Rural Electric Association isn't an ordinary utility company.

We're a co-op, and our business model is meant to serve the members and the community—not to make a hefty profit for investors five states away. Our customers are more than consumers; they're members and owners of the cooperative. Therein lies the difference.

Our core purpose and mission is to provide our members safe, reliable and affordable power. As a co-op, we're motivated by service to the community rather than profits. After covering our annual expenses, we invest any extra money back into the co-op. Eventually, that extra money is returned to members in the form of capital credits.

We're governed by a board of directors who are elected by our members. Our board comprises members who live and work in our service area because they're in a position to know where community investments are most needed.

As a member, you can actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. This is why we value your participation in our annual meeting and at other co-op events. We depend on the guidance and perspective of our members and board to help set priorities for the co-op and guide our decisions. To learn how you can get involved, visit [SWRE.com/Member-Meetings](https://www.swre.com/Member-Meetings).

In line with our cooperative values, SWRE has numerous ongoing programs that benefit the community. Every June, for example, we participate in the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, which takes local high school students to the nation's capital to meet with lawmakers, enabling students to learn firsthand how our democracy works.

We also have a grant program and support local community service initiatives. Like all co-op operations, decisions about these programs are led by member guidance and feedback.

We recognize the vital role our cooperative plays in energizing our local economy. To continue to innovate and effectively serve the community, we rely on you, our members, to provide input.

You're an important part of allowing us to operate effectively and help our community thrive, and we value your perspective.



RETURNING FROM THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME



Oklahoma delegation at the Iwo Jima Memorial



Texas and Oklahoma meet in D.C.



Texas delegation at the White House

Brooke Templeton (Crowell High School), **Aleesha Davis** (Tipton High School), and **Chris Petty** (SWRE's administrative assistant & office manager / trip chaperone) are back home from the 2025 Government-in-Action Youth Tour, and the experience is surely one they will never forget. The weeklong trip, sponsored by Southwest Rural Electric Electric, took the local student on a whirlwind adventure in Washington, D.C. in June.

Templeton traveled with more than 145 peers from all over the state of Texas while Davis and Petty traveled with 68 students from all over the state of Oklahoma for a guided, all-expenses-paid tour that even a seasoned tourist would envy. They visited museums and memorials, took a cruise on the Potomac River, witnessed a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and joined more than 1,900 other teens from across the country for a day of inspiring speakers and learning about the role of electric cooperatives. They even met with their congressional representatives.

With the week of sightseeing and education in Washington behind them, Templeton and Davis would like to thank the members of SWRE for their continuous support of the co-op's youth programs.

For more information on how high school juniors can win this exciting trip, visit [SWRE.com/YouthTour](https://www.swre.com/YouthTour).



Templeton was selected as one of three finalist in the Texas Youth Leadership Council competition. She did a phenomenal job giving an address at the welcome dinner in Austin, Texas.

ENERGY CAMP IS ENLIGHTENING



Chance Merriman and Warryn Huff from Tipton Middle School participate in a relay race at Energy Camp to see who can put on lineworker PPE the fastest.

Approximately 75 eighth-graders from all across Oklahoma attended the 2025 Energy Camp, sponsored by Oklahoma's electric cooperatives. The camp was held May 27–30 and was fun-filled and unforgettable.

Throughout the week, we learned about electric cooperatives, how electricity is generated and distributed, and the importance of teamwork and leadership. We also learned how to be: better communicators, problem solvers, and leaders. Some skills developed during Energy Camp included: public speaking, collaboration, decision-making, and stepping out of our comfort zones.

Each camper was placed in a small group, and every group elected a representative to serve on the Energy Camp Board of Directors. As board members, we got to experience what it's like to serve in a leadership role. We proudly selected Harper McElroy, representing Choctaw Electric, as our General Manager. She did a fantastic job leading the camp in her role.

On behalf of all the 2025 Energy Campers, we want to thank Oklahoma's electric cooperatives for giving us the opportunity to attend this amazing camp. We are so grateful for the memories we made and the friendships we'll never forget.

Thank you for believing in us and helping us grow into future leaders!

– The 2025 Energy Camp Board of Directors

Southwest Rural Electric

P.O. Box 310 • 700 N. Broadway

Tipton, OK 73570-0310

Headquarters: 1-800-256-7973

Chief Executive Officer

Dan Lambert

Board of Directors

Don Ellis District 1

Corwin Petzold District 2

Don Proctor, Sec. District 3

Dan Elsener, Vice Pres... District 5

Ronnie Swan, Pres. District 6

Dan White District 7

Carl Brockriede District 8

Bill Pay Options:

24/7 Bill Pay: 1-855-940-3943

SmartHub App or SWRE.com

Outage Reports:

24/7 Hotline: 1-833-590-0353

SmartHub App

SWRE is an equal opportunity provider and employer. SWRE *Power Source* is published monthly for distribution to members of SWRE.



**WE'RE
PROUD TO
POWER YOU.**