



FREESTATE ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.

TheOutlet

FREESTATE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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STAFF

Christopher Parr
CEO

DISTRICT OFFICES

MCLOUTH OFFICE

P.O. Box 70
McLouth, KS 66054-0070

TOPEKA OFFICE

1100 S.W. Auburn Road
Topeka, KS 66615

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

REMINDER

Our offices will open at noon on Aug. 13 to accommodate an all-employee safety meeting.

FROM THE CEO

How to Spot and Avoid Scams

Members and safety are top priorities for FreeState, and this month we're combining those priorities to bring you a message of protecting yourself against scams.

If someone calls or texts you claiming to be from FreeState and says your service will be cut off if you don't pay immediately, this is a scam. FreeState will never call and demand immediate payment over the phone. We will always identify ourselves, and we will never demand payment using a prepaid gift card, or an unusual payment platform.

Utility scams are on the rise and becoming much more common. Learn how to protect yourself. Beware of these common scam tactics:

► DISCONNECTION THREATS:

Scammers claim your service will be cut off without immediate payment.

► **CALLER ID SPOOFING:** Scammers use software to make their calls appear legitimate.

► **OVERPAYMENT CLAIMS:** They may say you've overpaid and ask for personal or banking information to issue a refund.

► **PHISHING ATTEMPTS:** Beware of emails or texts that look like bills; always verify the sender's email before clicking links.

If you have any doubt about the status of your electric service, call us at 800-794-1989 and press zero to talk to

one of our member service representatives.

RED FLAGS TO WATCH OUT FOR:

- High-pressure tactics that demand urgent action.
- Unusual payment method requests (wire transfer, gift cards, reloadable cards or cryptocurrency).
- Poor grammar, misspellings and suspicious email addresses.
- Utility scammers can create sophisticated and convincing frauds that are hard for consumers to recognize and avoid.
- Scammers can craft convincing emails that appear to be from legitimate companies and include the use of company colors and logos.
- Scammers create realistic-looking utility company websites that are nearly indistinguishable from legitimate ones.
- Scammers create geographically targeted online ads that appear when users search for keywords related to their energy bills.



Chris Parr

If you have any doubt about the status of your electric service, call us directly using the number on your bill.

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Tillie Johnson, FreeState's delegate for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, is the daughter of Cindy Hart and Todd Johnson.

A NOTE FROM TILLY

I had the honor of representing both the FreeState Electric Cooperative and the great state of Kansas in Washington, D.C., for the Cooperative Youth Tour.

Over the week we toured our nation's great monuments — monuments not only of the great leaders who came before us, but also memorials representing the not-so-great moments of our past. My favorite of these was the Jefferson Memorial, standing tall over the Tidal Basin. It was the first place we visited in D.C., and suddenly, something that I had only ever seen in books or on my iPhone seemed so much bigger — bigger in a physical sense but also in what it stood for. In my mind it represents stability and strength in times of weakness: how such a grand building could sit on unstable ground but remain mighty for over a hundred years.

Throughout this tour I learned the true meaning of what my country stands for and became ever more connected to the lessons our history holds. I now even more value the freedoms and liberty we have in our beautiful nation, along with the opportunities that are presented; dreams and goals that are yours for the taking if only you pursue.

We traveled with students from Hawaii, meeting in Topeka and then flying to D.C., as two states made one. I learned so much about Hawaiian culture that I now have no choice but to visit at some point in my life, hopefully sooner rather than later. Even though we came from completely different parts of the United States, I realized we all are so similar in the ways we are curious, kind and ever so grateful for this experience.

I am truly blessed to have met all of these people and for the knowledge I've gained not only of our country but also for the things I've learned about myself.

TILLY JOHNSON

YOUTH CONNECT TO *History*



Four standout students from Hawaii and 27 from Kansas were chosen for the 2025 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., held from June 14-20.



The Youth Tour kicked off in Topeka with a welcome dinner and icebreaker activities, followed by an exclusive night tour of the Kansas State Capitol led by State Treasurer Steven Johnson (far right, bottom row) and Kansas Representative Kyle Hoffman (far left, bottom row), both alumni of the Youth Tour program.



Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Reddick (center) demonstrated flag etiquette, inspiring delegates to respect and honor the flag and each other.



Students met with U.S. Senator Roger Marshall (right) to ask thoughtful questions on a range of topics to gain firsthand insight into the legislative process and the role of elected officials.



LEFT: Tilly Johnson takes in the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism during World War II. With a zen garden motif, the most striking feature is a bronze sculpture of Japanese cranes entangled in barbed wire. It reflects on the legacy of Japanese incarceration camps in the United States during World War II. Many Japanese Americans were treated with suspicion and as potential spies, and were sent to the camps during the war because of their race, not because of any actual espionage. As a result, many were displaced and were never able to return home when the war ended.



Beyond the educational experiences, students enjoyed unique opportunities to bond with peers from across the country. **ABOVE:** Delegates saw “Les Miserables” at the Kennedy Center.

BELOW: The group got to enjoy a Washington Nationals win 4-0 over the Miami Marlins at Nationals Park.

RIGHT: Tilly Johnson poses in front of the Jefferson Memorial — her favorite. She said the monument represents stability and strength in times of weakness.

BELOW: Students visit the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.



How to Spot and Avoid Scams

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- Scammers have resources to launch large-scale utility scam campaigns quickly and efficiently.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF:

- **TAKE YOUR TIME:** Don't rush into payments or action.
- Verify any communication by calling us directly using the number on your bill.
- Never share personal information. Legitimate companies won't ask for sensitive details over the phone.
- If someone claims to be from FreeState, you can request official identification.

If you suspect a scam, report it to FreeState as soon as you can. As reports come in we can often warn other members quickly that something is not right.

Remember, FreeState will always provide multiple notices before disconnection and will not pressure you for immediate payment. If you are in doubt, let us know so we can take proactive measures to both protect you and others from becoming victims.

As always you can call us at 800-794-1989 and press zero to talk to one of our member service representatives. We're here to help.



Join us at Gary's Farm Fest on
Sunday, Sept. 28, and be sure to bring your can tabs
for Ronald McDonald House Charities!

Starting a new project?

1

NOTIFY



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



Call 811 or make a request online two to three days before you plan to start your project.

2

WAIT



Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will mark underground lines.

3

CONFIRM



Confirm all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 811 call center notified.

4

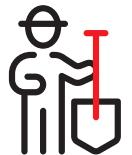
RESPECT



Respect the markers and use them as a guide for the duration of your project.

5

DIG CAREFULLY



If you can't avoid digging near the provided markers (within 24 inches on all sides according to Kansas law), consider moving your project.

Follow these 5 STEPS for safe digging

NOTE 811 does not mark privately owned utility lines, invisible fences or sprinkler systems. Call a private utility locator for these.

WHAT DO ALL THE FLAGS MEAN?



Proposed Excavation



Electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables



Alarm, signal or communication lines, cables or conduit



Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines



Temporary survey markings



Gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials



Potable water



Sewers and drain lines