



FREESTATE ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.

The Outlet

FREESTATE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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Mon.-Thu.: 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

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Topeka, KS 66615

Mon.-Thu.: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

NOTICE

As our GIS Audit continues, you may see people walking or riding ATVs along the right-of-way or easement areas to take pictures of our infrastructure.

GUEST COLUMN

Building New Leaders

Developing youth doesn't happen by accident; it happens through intentional investment, consistent mentorship, and providing meaningful opportunities. At FreeState, we recognize how powerful it can be when the next generation is given the chance to explore leadership, service and personal growth in an environment meant to be supportive.

As FreeState's communications manager, I've been coordinating youth programs for the past decade, and I've had the privilege of watching students in our territory discover confidence they didn't even know they had, build skills and form connections that shape their futures. These programs are not just activities to fill time; they are structured pathways that help youth get engaged and become capable members of our communities.

One question I am often asked is "How affordable are these youth programs?"

The answer is often surprising to members. When you break it down, it costs only 45 cents per member each year. We're not just funding programs, we're cultivating leadership, strengthening communities and helping the next generation realize their potential.

I have chaperoned the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., the statewide conference (during the pandemic), and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. It has been an incredible experience to see youth connect the dots to leadership through their cooperative, to hear them find a voice they didn't know was there, and to watch confidence blossom with a little encouragement. I can tell you firsthand that the return on investment shows up in countless ways. The youth who have gone through these programs have come home with improved civic engagement, stronger communication skills and a greater sense of belonging. These outcomes are not just beneficial to the student, but to their schools, families, communities and beyond.

In this issue you'll meet the next two students who will represent your cooperative this summer. I hope you will take a moment to learn more about them and maybe encourage students in your life to think about taking advantage of opportunities like these.

When we invest even a small amount into youth programming, we send a powerful message: you matter, your future matters, and we believe in your ability to lead.



Sarah Farlee

“Encourage students in your life to think about taking advantage of opportunities like these.”



2026 Youth Programs



ADDISON THORNE

PERRY LECOMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

PARENTS: STEPHEN AND ANDREA THORNE

MEET ADDISON

2026 Youth Tour Delegate

My name is Addison Thorne and I am a junior at Perry Lecompton High School. My first three years at school have been very productive both socially and academically.

I have been building my leadership skills as an FCCLA officer over the last three years, as well as FBLA president and student council representative.

As a student athlete, I participate in volleyball, track and softball throughout the year. I have had a variety of paid positions to boost my college savings, which include work at our local marina, a psychology internship, and coaching youth volleyball.

Volunteer time at both my school and church has also been important to me. My family keeps me grounded through all of the commotion and is constantly helping me build a stronger foundation of faith.

EXCERPT FROM ADDISON'S ESSAY ABOUT HER MENTOR

“Do not look forward in fear to the changes of life; rather look to them with full hope as they arise.” My grandmother, Karen, lives by this quote from Saint Francis de Sales. She has taught me this lesson in every aspect of life, and now I live by it as well.

My grandmother spent her life as a schoolteacher, shaping both the minds and the future of her students and children. She's mastered a skill that not many people develop in life. By genuinely investing her attention in each person she meets, Grandma finds the best in them and brings that gift to the spotlight.

In my life, I've never met anyone with as much joy, faith or love as my grandmother. She truly inspires me to live every moment to its fullest with no regrets.

One of the key truths she has taught me is that God has a plan for me, so therefore I never need to worry or expect anything because trusting in his guidance takes so much less effort than attempting to change it. If it weren't for her, my faith would not be in the same place it is today. Even when we are apart, we still think of each other every day as we journal and read the bible.

Not only in faith, but in my well-being, Grandma has helped me grow. My confidence, optimism, and integrity all improve merely by a cup of coffee with her, and I couldn't be more thankful. I hope to someday resemble Grandma's strength. She is more than a role model to me; she's my best friend.

“By genuinely investing her attention in each person, Grandma finds the best in them...”

FreeState invests in our youth through opportunities designed to provide experiences that guide students to develop leadership and communication skills. These two high school juniors went through a competitive application process where they prepared an application, an essay and interview where they earned the opportunity to represent FreeState at two great leadership experiences this summer.



MEET SAMUEL

2026 Leadership Camp Delegate

My name is Samuel Murphy, and I am a junior at Pleasant Ridge High School. I am a member of the National Honor Society, and I am also involved in Pleasant Ridge FFA. Being in FFA has helped me learn more about agriculture and become a better leader.

I also attend Highland Community College Technical Center, where I am working on certification in Precision Agriculture. Agriculture is a big part of my life. I have been a member of the Bell 4-H Club for 10 years.

Outside of school, I help work on my family's farm. I help take care of beef cattle and help with row crop farming. Working on the farm has taught me responsibility, hard work, and perseverance. I am also a member of Risen Savior Lutheran Church, which is important to me and helps shape my values.

SAMUEL MURPHY

PLEASANT RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

PARENTS: SAM AND REBECCA MURPHY

EXCERPT FROM SAMUEL'S ESSAY ABOUT HIS MENTOR

Growing up, I learned early that farming is not just a job, it is a way of life. My Dad has spent countless hours caring for our beef cattle and managing row crops. Watching him has taught me the importance of responsibility and commitment.

On the farm, things do not happen instantly. Crops take time to grow, and success does not come overnight. My Dad has shown me that you have to put in effort even when the results are not immediate. This has inspired me to approach my own challenges with the same determination.

People respect and trust my Dad. He is always ready to help others. He pushes me to do my best, and he also reminds me to be humble and grateful. His guidance

has taught me to work hard while staying honest and respectful.

Another important lesson my Dad has taught me is perseverance. Farming comes with many things that are out of his control. He stays calm, finds solutions, and keeps moving forward. Watching him handle problems has taught me that true leaders do not quit when things get hard. They stay strong and continue working toward their goals.

My Dad also mentors me through the way he treats others. He is kind, respectful, and always willing to lend a hand. He does not seek attention for the things he does, but people still notice his character. My Dad leads not with words, but with the way he lives his life.

“Watching him handle problems has taught me that true leaders do not quit when things get hard.”

Win FREE Electricity!

At FreeState, we're always looking for ways to make things a little easier for our members.

We have an effortless bill-paying option with the **AUTOMATIC MONTHLY PAYMENT (AMP) PROGRAM**. With AMP, your electric bill is paid automatically on the fifth each month — no need to worry about due dates, missed payments or late fees. If you enroll by July 1, you'll be entered for a chance to receive one of two \$500 bill credits.

TO SIGN UP FOR AMP BY PHONE, YOU'LL NEED:

- 1** The account number for the account(s) you want to put on automatic payments.
- 2** Your bank account and routing number **OR** debit/credit card number.

▶ **CALL 785-478-3444:** Thank you for calling FreeState Electric Cooperative. Our automated system allows you to report an outage quickly and easily using a phone number, a meter number, or an account number. Agents are also available but hold times vary with high call volumes. If you are calling to report a power outage, press 1. To make a payment, press 2. For all other calls or to speak to a representative, press 0.

▶ **PRESS 2:** Welcome to FreeState Electric's automated phone system. To check your account status, press 1. To make a payment, press 2. To report or view the status of an outage, please press 3. To manage your recurring payments, press 4. To add or edit a stored payment method, press 5.

▶ **PRESS 4:** To look up your information by phone number, please press 1. To look up your information by billing account number, please press 2.

NOTE: Members with multiple meters often use different payment sources for each, so it's best to use the account number, since each account must be set up individually.

▶ **PRESS 2:** If you are calling in regards to your electric service at (address), please press one. If not, press two.

▶ **PRESS 1 IF THE ADDRESS IS CORRECT:** No recurring payments found. To create a recurring payment to take effect on your next bill, press one. To return to the main menu, press two.

▶ **PRESS 1:** To create a recurring payment using a credit or debit card to take effect on your next bill, press one. To create a recurring payment using a checking account to take effect on your next bill, press two.

▶ **PRESS THE OPTION THAT MATCHES YOUR PAYMENT OPTION AND FOLLOW THE PROMPTS: YOUR RECURRING PAYMENT HAS BEEN SET UP AND WILL TAKE EFFECT ON YOUR NEXT BILL.**

▶ **CONFIRM (OPTIONAL):** Call and press 0 to speak to a representative to confirm.

YOU ARE NOW AMP'D!

WHY DO MEMBERS CHOOSE THE AMP PROGRAM?

- ▶ Convenient and automatic
- ▶ No late fees from missed due dates
- ▶ Less to keep track of in your day-to-day routine
- ▶ No stamps

It's a simple, reliable way to take one more task off your plate.

Get AMP'd for effortless bill pay. Set it and forget it with the added benefit of a chance to win big.

If you are already using the AMP Program for your residential service, you'll also get a chance at the free electricity. All residential members using AMP as of July 1 will be entered into the drawing. Find the official rules at <https://freestate.pub/WIN>.

If you have questions, our team is always happy to help. **CALL US AT 785-478-3444.**

For instructions on enrolling in AMP through SmartHub, visit <https://freestate.pub/AMP>.

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