



FREESTATE ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.

TheOutlet

FREESTATE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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Christopher Parr
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OFFICE

TEMP. TOPEKA OFFICE

7332 S.W. 21st St.
Topeka, KS 66615
Monday-Thursday
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.

FROM THE CEO

From Big Events to Meaningful Moments

For the past five years, our approach to member engagement has centered on large, signature events that were designed to bring many of you together in one place to celebrate your cooperative membership. Those events have created lasting memories and strong connections, and we're proud of what they've accomplished.

But looking ahead, we're asking an important question: how do we connect with more members in ways that feel more personal, more accessible and more meaningful?

The answer is a strategic shift.

Instead of hosting a single large event, we're taking engagement into the communities where our members live and work. Where you already are! We will be showing up at our local schools throughout the month of October. Instead of asking you to come to us, we are coming to you.

Why the change? Well, everything changes and it's a great opportunity to look at how we meet our members. The cooperative advantage isn't just about providing you with reliable service, it's about building connections and relationships across our service territory. By going to our members, we are able to reach even more of you in a way that large events just can't do.

This approach also allows us to get out into our local communities and support the places that anchor so many of our members. Partnerships with local schools means investing in not only connections, but our future. These types of connections are what truly reflect who we are as a cooperative and what we value most.

We'll be honest with you. This shift requires more effort on the team here at FreeState because the planning and coordination will not be easy.

But it's worth it.

Because member engagement is about connections. It's conversations. It's gathering together to support our communities, and the interactions we have with members will help us understand what is important to you, and what we can do to make life even better.

We are excited about this new approach to member appreciation and making new connections! It's all part of the cooperative advantage.



Chris Parr

“How do we connect with more members in ways that feel more personal, more accessible and more meaningful?”



Samuel Murphy, FreeState's delegate for the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, is the son of Sam and Rebecca Murphy.

A NOTE FROM SAMUEL

Attending the 2026 Cooperative Leadership Youth Camp as FreeState Electric Cooperative's representative is honestly an experience I'm never going to forget.

I met so many people from Kansas, Wyoming, Colorado and Oklahoma, and the friendships I made were probably my favorite part of the whole week. We did leadership activities together, built a mock cooperative, played volleyball, went white-water rafting on the Colorado River and I even had a good time at the Neon Dance and talent show.

Touring the Craig Power Station was easily one of the coolest parts of camp. It was crazy seeing how electricity actually gets generated and how the whole facility runs. We also watched a high-voltage safety demonstration, which really showed how serious safety is in this line of work. Getting to talk with people who work all different jobs at electric co-ops made me realize how much teamwork goes into keeping the lights on every single day, and it opened my eyes to a lot of career paths I hadn't thought about before.

I also learned about the Cooperative Advantage — basically how an electric co-op is owned by its members instead of outside investors, so it's all about serving the community with reliable, affordable electricity instead of profit.

I was honored to be elected as a 2027 camp ambassador. This camp helped me grow as a leader, gave me friends I never would have met and taught me just how important electric cooperatives really are. I am grateful to FreeState Electric Cooperative for giving me this opportunity.

SAMUEL MURPHY



BUILDING YOUNG *Leaders*



The 49th Annual Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) was held July 10-16 near scenic Steamboat Springs, Colorado.



The camp brought together 80 high school student leaders from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming, sponsored by 46 electric and agriculture cooperatives.



FreeState's 2025 delegate, Charley Coffin (left), was one of six 2025 campers who returned as camp ambassadors. Samuel Murphy was elected as an ambassador this year, and will return to camp in 2027.



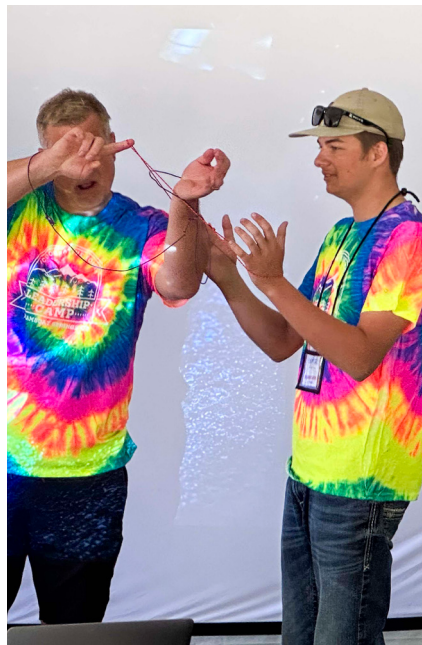
Throughout camp, students gained hands-on experience in cooperative business operations by forming and managing a mock candy cooperative. They elected a board, appointed a general manager, created committees and held daily membership meetings, mirroring the real-world structure of member-owned cooperatives.



Educational sessions covered leadership development, conflict resolution and co-op career opportunities. Highlights included electric safety demonstrations by cooperative linemen, a live raptor presentation from HawkQuest, and a tour of the Craig Power Station.



CYLC offered more than just professional growth opportunities; it fostered a sense of camaraderie and adventure. Students experienced the charm of downtown Steamboat Springs and braved the rapids of the Colorado River on a rafting trip. Recreational highlights included a volleyball tournament, swimming, a talent show and a dance.



“Seeing people step up, try new things and become more confident throughout the week was inspiring. It showed me what can happen when you’re willing to get outside your comfort zone,” Samuel said.

FreeState's GIS Audit Continues

FreeState Electric Cooperative, Inc., has contracted with Global Mapping Solutions (GMS) to carry out field audit on the cooperative's infrastructure. This work is referred to as a geographic information system (GIS) audit.

GMS began the GIS audit on Aug. 29, 2025, and is expected to continue working through May 2027.

Please be aware that FreeState has granted permission for GMS to utilize all easements and right-of-way areas pertinent to FreeState service territory to complete this project. Contractors may be seen in pickups and/or ATVs with magnets marked "Contracted by FreeState Electric."

WHAT EXACTLY IS A GIS AUDIT?

A GIS audit locates and inventories each and every piece of equipment used in the infrastructure of the distribution system. GMS will upload photographs of the system and note the exact GPS location.

WHY IS A GIS AUDIT NEEDED?

A GIS audit is considered an essential service for electric cooperatives. The audit verifies or improves the accuracy of the mapping system, and this is critical for systems such as FreeState's metering infrastructure, outage management systems and workforce management.

The goal of the project is accuracy, reliability and the use of best practices. Overall, the audit ensures that FreeState can maximize the benefits derived from our GIS, leading to both immediate and long-term advantages.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR MEMBERS?

A GIS audit improves electric service in the following ways:

- ▶ **COST SAVINGS:** More accurate data reduces operational costs, as evidenced by fewer one-call requests (underground line locating), more efficient staking and improved workforce management.
- ▶ **ENHANCED EFFICIENCY:** GIS can be used for better planning of projects and should result in fewer field visits.
- ▶ **CUSTOMER SATISFACTION:** Accurate location data means faster response times and improved infrastructure management.
- ▶ **REGULATORY COMPLIANCE:** Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance requires specific and accurate locations of infrastructure damage.

Should you have any further questions or need more information, please call the office or visit <https://freestate.pub/GIS>.

STAY PUT. STAY ALIVE.



If your machinery, vehicle or other equipment makes contact with a power line, guy wire or electrical box, do not get out of your cab. Stray power could energize your equipment and the ground.

TO AVOID ELECTROCUTION:

- ▶ Call 911 and wait for us to arrive to cut the power
- ▶ Wait to exit your cab until the power is de-energized.

If you need to exit to escape smoke or fire, jump out without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle, and hop away as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you hop.

RALLYING CO-OP Spirit!

JOIN US AT AN EVENT NEAR YOU

FreeState is planning to be at the following events in our territory in the coming months. Stop by to visit, pick up a gift and enter to win a bill credit giveaway.

- ▶ **SEPT. 19:** Auburn Fair
- ▶ **SEPT. 29:** McLouth Volleyball vs. Troy, Mauer Hill
- ▶ **OCT. 12:** Tonganoxie Soccer vs. Paola
- ▶ **OCT. 13:** Silver Lake Volleyball vs. St. Mary's, Royal Valley
- ▶ **OCT. 20:** Washburn Rural Soccer vs. Topeka High
- ▶ **OCT. 23:** Mission Valley Football vs. Wabaunsee