

[MCREA News]

Andrew Littlefield Attends Youth Tour, Earns YLC Designation

BY GEOFF BAUMGARTNER || COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

“I could talk to other students for hours on end about how absolutely amazing this experience was, about all of the doors it has opened up for me, as well as just the chance to meet amazing people from all corners of the state — which will turn out to be some of your greatest friends.” These were the sentiments of Andrew Littlefield, Prairie High School student and Morgan County Rural Electric Association’s representative to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program in Washington, D.C., held this past June.



Left Photo: Andrew Littlefield from Prairie High School is MCREA’s delegate to the Washington D.C. Youth Tour. He was selected as Colorado’s representative to the Youth Leadership Council.

Right Photo: Youth Tour students visit with several legislators while in D.C., including Sens. Cory Gardner (left) and Michael Bennet.

Littlefield was selected by MCREA to spend a week in the nation’s capital with other students representing electric cooperatives from across Colorado. Each June, cooperatives from across the nation provide high school students the opportunity to learn about politics, community service and the energy industry, while experiencing the magic of our capital city.

According to Liz Fiddes from the Colorado Rural Electric Association, 34 students and four chaperones from Colorado participated in the Washington D.C. Youth Tour. In total, there were 1,888 students representing 42 states in D.C. — the largest group ever for Colorado and the program. Fiddes is director of member services and education for CREA and serves as the Youth Tour coordinator for Colorado’s electric cooperatives.

Students started the experience in Colorado by touring the state capitol; participating in a Story Behind the Switch electric presentation; touring the operations center at Tri-State Generation and Transmission; meeting with two Blue Star

mothers; learning about co-op careers; and meeting with state Rep. Faith Winter.

“The most amazing thing I learned from this experience, which I wouldn’t have learned anywhere else, is the power of cooperation, even in business,” Littlefield explained. “We always think that business is a cutthroat game, but the cooperative business model shows us how powerful we are if we work together, and all the good we can do with it.”

Once the students made their way to Washington, D.C., they were able to take in many of the historical sites. “I think that one of my favorite and most memorable places was Arlington National Cemetery and witnessing the Changing of the Guard,” Littlefield said. “This place showed me the true sacrifice of protecting our freedoms, and it was both sorrowing and sad but



Littlefield (far right) and the other Youth Tour delegates visit many monuments and historical sights, including the Lincoln Memorial. (Kim and Eric Evertse, acct #xxx9700)

at the same time a sense of patriotism and a very real sense of the pride of American people and what we stand for.”

Littlefield also enjoyed the history of the area. “I’d say my second favorite place was being able to tour Fort McHenry and visiting the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland,” he explained. “Lastly, I’d say being able to tour all of the different Smithsonian museums, like the Museum of Natural History and the National Air and Space Museum. It was truly an experience you couldn’t replicate.” Other sights the students

[continued on page 9]

NEED & Tri-State Bring Energy to Educators

BY GEOFF BAUMGARTNER || COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

“My goal for participating in this conference was to gain knowledge in the field of energy production in order to bring it back to my students as a gifted and talented enrichment instructor. I was able to meet, and exceed, this expectation.” That was the sentiment from Chelsea Schraeder, who attended an energy training program for teachers sponsored by Morgan County REA and other electric cooperatives from around our region. Schraeder teaches gifted and talented elementary-aged students in Fort Morgan schools.

Schraeder was one of several educators who took part in an annual energy education conference for teachers hosted by Tri-State Generation and Transmission, MCREA’s power provider. The program was offered in partnership with the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project, a nonprofit education association with over 30 years of experience in energy education and curriculum development.

Held in late June, the 2018 Tri-State Energy Conference brought together educators who are electric cooperative members or teach at schools that are within Tri-State’s member cooperatives’ service areas. The three-day conference provided participants with the most up-to-date information on all aspects of energy including the science of energy, sources of energy, transportation, consumption, electricity, efficiency and environmental and economic impacts.

Participants received the training and materials to implement innovative hands-on energy units for their classrooms, multi-disciplinary teams and after-school programs. “Beyond the informative instruction in the course, there was also very useful hands-on presentations,” Schraeder explained. “During a tour of a power plant as well as of the Tri-State campus, I was able to get a firsthand account of how power is generated, transmitted and controlled.”

Schraeder said that, in addition to explaining power generation, the conference taught her about how power is marketed. “The training also covered how power is bought and sold on a continuous basis on the open market. There is no option to store power, so companies are constantly attempting to keep supply and demand in a stable situation,” she explained.

Educators were sent home with extensive resources that can be used in their classrooms. “During the hours spent in the conference I also was introduced to many direct resources for my classroom. Activities, experiments and demonstrations were presented. There is also a crazy good website with resources for us to use. I am very excited to bring these experiences to my students” Schraeder said. (Debbie K. Fiscus, acct #xxx7300)

Schraeder said that she highly recommends the course for educators to attend in the future. “The Tri-State Energy Conference was a very useful course for me. Beyond what was



covered in the three-day conference, there are multiple resources that are provided online and in catalogs that will aid in developing a thorough understanding of energy for students across all grade levels,” she said. “I personally look forward to going through the material available to me and composing several series of units of instruction for the upcoming school year.”

Fort Morgan gifted and talented enrichment instructor Chelsea Schraeder was sponsored by Morgan County REA at a three-day training for teachers at Tri-State Generation and Transmission in June.

MCREA DOES THE COLOR RUN

Several Morgan County REA employees and their families took part in the Fort Morgan Sunrise Optimist Color Run held in June at Fort Morgan’s Riverside Park. The cooperative employees participated in the event and volunteered their time to provide music during and after the run.



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- Pay with e-check (deduction directly from your bank account). Available for all rate classes.
- Pay with credit card (large power and industrial accounts excluded).



24 Hour Pay-by-Phone

Call the automated payment line at 877-495-6487 (24 hours a day - 365 days a year). Pay via one of two methods:

- Pay with e-check (deduction directly from your bank account). Available for all rate classes. PIN number required. Call MCREA billing department to receive your PIN at 970-867-5688.
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Payment Drop Off Locations

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Roggen, CO 80652

YOUTH TOUR *[continued from page 7]*

visited included the Lincoln Memorial, White House, Jefferson Memorial, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and Mount Vernon, just to name a few. The students also met with Sens. Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner and Reps. Scott Tipton and Ed Perlmutter, along with staff members from Rep. Ken Buck and Perlmutter's offices. The face-to-face time with several elected officials gave the students the opportunity to learn more about what the legislators do and how the legislative process works.

Fiddes also sent along some good news to MCREA early on in the trip. "Andrew Littlefield from Morgan County REA was elected by the students to represent Colorado on the Youth Leadership Council," she reported. "Andy will return to D.C. in July for training on public speaking and leadership and will represent Colorado at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Annual Meeting." The Youth Tour delegates from each state select only one of their peers to represent them on the Youth Leadership Council each year.

"When I was selected to represent Colorado as our state's YLC representative, I was overcome with a sense of immense gratitude and honor," Littlefield said. "Having grown up on my family's farm and ranch in northeastern Colorado, with the closest town having 52 people, opportunities are few and far between, so when I was blessed with such an amazing opportunity to represent our state at the national level, I was grateful for the chance to do so."

Cooperative electric utilities have sponsored high school juniors and seniors for visits to their U.S. congressional delegations, sightseeing in Washington and energy and grass-roots government education sessions through the Youth Tour program for more than 50 years. The electric cooperative Youth Tour is a collaborative effort by Morgan County REA, the Colorado Rural Electric Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Littlefield summed up his experience by saying, "This program is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I can't do justice to the impact of the Youth Tour on my life with just words alone."

Congratulations to Andrew from everyone at MCREA and thank you for representing Morgan County REA with distinction.

Win \$25 Off Your Electric Bill

Each month Morgan County REA gives two lucky members a \$25 credit on their electric bill, just by reading *Colorado Country Life*.

Congratulations, **Joe J. Marx** (account #xxx5000) and **Janice Clem** (account #xxx9800), you saw your names and account numbers in the June edition of *Colorado Country Life*. You both received a \$25 credit on your electric bill.

There are two more MCREA member names and their account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you find your name and account number, call member services at 970-867-5688 by August 31 to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill.

Morgan County REA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

2-3

3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.

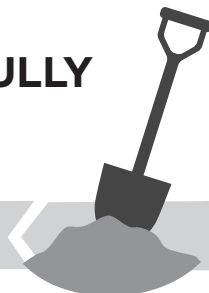


4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY



Source: call811.com



HARVEST SAFETY

Now is the time for farmers to reap the rewards of a long and often tiring growing season. When it comes to fall harvest, there is a lot to get done in a seemingly short amount of time, as shorter days and cooler weather can create a sense of urgency. These factors, along with today's technology and large farm equipment, can lead to serious accidents.

Overhead electric lines near end rows and along roadways can also be a danger to operators of larger, taller farm equipment. Safe Electricity urges farmers to keep equipment and extensions at least 10 feet away from power lines in all directions, and recommends the following tips to keep farmers safe:

- Know where overhead power lines are before you head out to the field, and have a plan to stay far from them.
- Use a spotter when raising any equipment, such as augers, grain trucks and ladders. It can be difficult to tell how close you are to overhead power lines.
- Know what to do and have a plan if you come into contact with an overhead power line. Do not leave the vehicle until utility workers cut off electricity and confirm that it is safe to exit the vehicle. Know what to do in the rare event the equipment catches fire.
- Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level — under 14 feet — before moving or transporting them. Wind, uneven ground, shifting weight and other conditions can make it difficult to control raised equipment.
- Never try to move a power line to clear a path. Power lines start to sag over time, bringing them closer to farmers and others who need to avoid them. Contact your utility to repair sagging power lines.

For more information on electrical farm safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.