



Students: Apply Now To Win Trip to DC

YOU'RE A TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT. You're smart; you have big dreams. Maybe you've never been out of the state and maybe you've never flown on a plane, but you want to travel—experience a big city, visit historic landmarks and meet people, and not just fellow high schoolers but influential public figures, like U.S. representatives.

If that describes you, then you're a candidate to apply for a slot on the 2017 Government-in-Action Youth Tour, an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 7–16. Three high school students from Central Texas Electric Cooperative will be selected.

Apply by January 27 for a chance to win a ticket for this adventure, which has been called the trip of a lifetime. Participation is open to high school students who will have completed their sophomore year by May 2017.

Youth Tour is an action-packed trip to the U.S. capital with more than 100 of your peers and chaperones from across Texas. You'll visit the Washington National Cathedral, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Smithsonian Institution, memorials and more. Activities include learning about rural electrification, seeing a performance at the Kennedy

Center, going on a boat cruise with dinner and dancing, and meeting elected officials.

All expenses for the tour (except personal items such as souvenirs, etc.) are paid by the co-op for the three winners. CTEC winners join youths from throughout Texas for the trip. Chaperones are provided by sponsoring cooperatives, and CTEC provides transportation to and from Austin.

Contest Rules

Essays of 500 words or fewer must be submitted in the CTEC headquarters office in Fredericksburg by 5 p.m., Friday, January 27, 2017. This year's essay must answer the question: "What would be the biggest challenge you would face without electricity?"

Winning essays are selected by independent judges and will be judged on originality (40 percent), knowledge of the topic (30 percent), composition (10 percent), neatness (10 percent) and grammar (10 percent). Two alternates will be named in the event that a winner is unable to attend the tour.

Additional details, information and entry forms are available from your local high school or online at ctec.coop.

Illuminate Your Holiday Season Safely

DON'T LET THE BRIGHT AND COLORFUL SPARKLE of the season distract you from taking the precautions that you need to stay safe when decorating. Central Texas Electric Cooperative provides tips for safe holiday decorating.

If you are decorating with an artificial tree, make sure you choose one with fire-resistant protection. With a real tree, make sure that the needles are green and sturdy, and the trunk is sticky with resin. These are indicators that your tree is well-hydrated. Keep your tree stand filled with water so that the tree does not become overly dry and present a fire hazard.

Never place your tree near heat-emitting devices, such as space heaters or radiators, which can be fire hazards. The National Fire Protection Association reports an annual average of 210 home fires caused as a result of Christmas tree mishaps.

Any lights that are hung either inside or outside of the home should have a label indicating that they have been certified by an accredited independent testing laboratory. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 1,300 people are treated for injuries involving holiday lights each year.

Also make sure the lights are rated for the location where they will be used—whether indoors or outside. Before hanging your lights, check the strands for broken bulbs, as well as fraying or bare wires that could present electrical hazards. Always replace damaged products.

Typically, one extension cord should have only three strands of lights connected to it at most, but you should also check that the extension cord is rated for its intended use. Never run extension cords under carpets, through doorways or where they could be damaged by furniture.

When decorating outside, always be sure to look up and double-check that you and any equipment, such as a ladder or a light strand, are at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.

When securing light strands, never staple or nail them into place, as this could damage them. Outdoor lights and decorations should be plugged into an outlet with ground-fault circuit interrupter protection.

Be sure to turn off all lights before leaving home or going to sleep. A timer can help you do this.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
TO YOUR FAMILY FROM OURS!

Our offices will be closed Monday, December 26, in observance of the holidays.



Central Texas Electric Cooperative

Fredericksburg (headquarters)

386 Friendship Lane
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Llano

1410 E. St. Hwy. 29, Llano

Kingsland

Nob Hill Subdivision
706 Cottonwood St., Kingsland

Mason

983 N. U.S. Hwy. 87, Mason

Office Hours

8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Friday

Website

ctec.coop

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Robert A. Loth III

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Emergency Contact

To report electric service interruptions, please call the Central Texas Electric Cooperative office in your area at the numbers listed below:

FREDERICKSBURG AREA

(830) 997-2126

1-800-900-CTEC (2832)

including Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, Blanco, Real and Kimble counties

LLANO AND SAN SABA AREAS

(325) 247-4191

THE LAKES AREA

(325) 388-4542

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

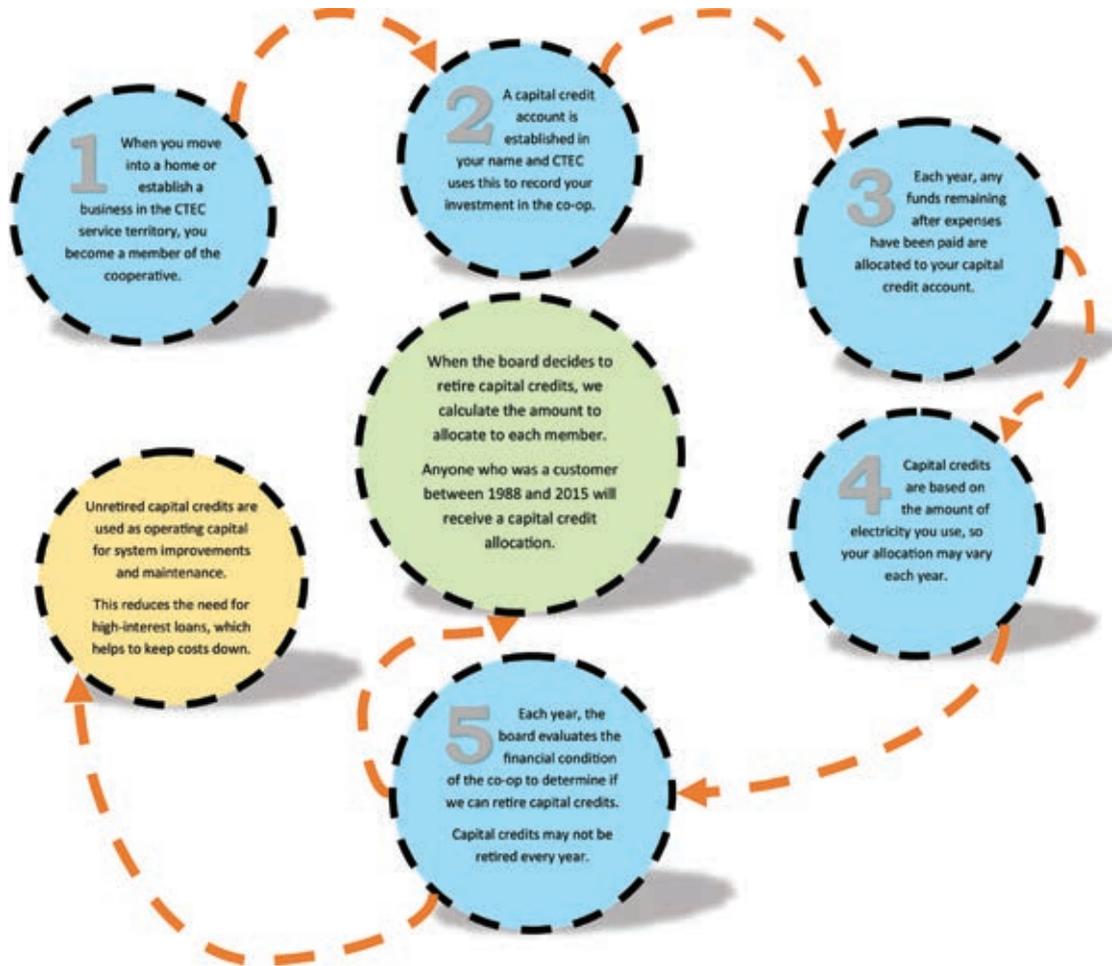
(325) 247-4191

after business hours

MASON AREA

(325) 347-6314

including McCulloch, Menard and Kimble counties



You Get The Credit

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GET THE (CAPITAL) CREDIT for helping build, sustain and grow your local electric cooperative.

More than \$1 million will be returned to Central Texas Electric Cooperative members this month. This year's capital credits retirement, which was authorized by resolution of the cooperative's board of directors during their October board meeting, is one of the largest annual retirements in CTEC history.

Since 1965, the co-op has returned \$13.5 million to members through the retirement of capital credits, with more than \$4.5 million coming in the past five years.

As a member of CTEC, you are entitled to share in the co-op's margins. To be financially stable, a cooperative must earn a margin between what it costs to operate the business and what it takes in as income. Without a positive margin, a co-op cannot obtain adequate financing for future expansion and growth.

The retirement process established by the co-op's bylaws returns patronage capital to all co-op members and emphasizes payout of the oldest unretired capital credits. The process also returns a larger share of capital to members who

have paid larger bills and contributed more capital over the years.

Process

The retirement or payback process involves two steps. First, half of the authorized retirement amount is applied against the oldest unretired capital credits on the co-op's books. Then, each member's share of the remaining half of the retirement amount is calculated, based on the percentage of unretired capital credits of the co-op. After the dollar amount of each member's retirement is determined, it is applied to reduce the oldest unretired capital credits on record.

Members receiving service at any time between 1988 and 2015 will benefit from this year's retirement. Active members (those still receiving service from CTEC) will have their 2016 capital credits retirement applied as a credit to their December bills. Inactive members who are entitled to a retirement of \$10 or more will be sent a check. To save postage and processing fees on inactive accounts, retirements of less than \$10 will be accumulated from year to year until the minimum \$10 amount is reached.

Capital Credits FAQs

Will the total capital credits amount be returned to me after I terminate electric service?

Early retirement of capital credits is not allowed when electric service is terminated. When capital credits are retired, or paid back, inactive accounts are included in the retirement calculation until their balances are fully retired.

Retirements will be issued subject to the \$10 minimum check limitation. Capital credits retirements cannot be delivered correctly if the co-op is not aware of address changes, so please keep Central Texas Electric Cooperative informed of your current address.

My relatives are deceased. How can we handle an estate?

Heirs of an estate can choose to close out the capital credits account of a deceased member by opting for an estate retirement. With this option, the capital credits balance is retired at a discount, and a check is issued to the heirs. More information about estate retirements is available from the CTEC Capital Credits Department at (830) 997-2126, or toll-free at 1-800-900-CTEC (2832).

What happens when capital credits checks are not cashed?

CTEC keeps a record of all capital credits checks that are not cashed. Claims on these accounts can be made indefinitely, but after three years, unclaimed amounts must be transferred to the Texas Unclaimed Property fund. Some of these unclaimed funds are returned to the co-op to be used for scholarships and economic development.

Using these proceeds, the Central Texas Electric Scholarship Fund supports higher education for co-op members and their families who live in the co-op's service area. These funds can also be used to promote economic development and provide energy-efficiency assistance in the co-op's service area.

Can I donate my capital credits to Operation Round-Up or the CTEC Scholarship program?

Yes, you can! Each of these programs is designed to give back



to the communities in which we all live. Operation Round-Up is a program that provides grants to charitable causes and non-profit civic organizations within the co-op's service territory. It is administered by a volunteer board of directors, and all funds are kept separate from co-op funds.

The CTEC Scholarship program uses unclaimed capital credits funds to award student scholarships to co-op members or their family members (whose primary residence is served by CTEC) for full-time study at an accredited secondary school in Texas.

Active members can find their 2016 capital credits retirement as a credit on their December bill.

Power Cost Pass-Thru	246 kWh	@	0.0530	13.04
Transmission Cost Pass-Thru	246 kWh	@	0.0090	2.21
Distribution Energy Charge	246 kWh	@	0.0250	6.15
Distribution Access Charge				22.50
Capital Credit Retirement				-3.42
Account Total				40.48