

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box B  
1564 S. 1000 Rd., Council Grove, KS 66846  
620-767-5144  
[www.flinthillsrec.com](http://www.flinthillsrec.com)



**FLINT HILLS RURAL  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# NEWS

## Flint Hills RECA

### Board of Trustees

**Roger Zimmerman**  
President

**James Witt**  
Vice President

**Korby Efland**  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Dale Andres**  
Trustee

**Cary Granzow**  
Trustee

**Trey Hinkson**  
Trustee

**Terry Olsen**  
Trustee

**Shawn Potts**  
Trustee

### Staff

**Chuck Goeckel**  
General Manager

## Member Services

- ▶ Viasat Internet Services
- ▶ Online Payment Options
- ▶ Outside Security Lighting
- ▶ Power Surge Protection
- ▶ Rebate Programs

For more information, call us at 620-767-5144 or visit our website at [www.flinthillsrec.com](http://www.flinthillsrec.com).

**This institution is an equal  
opportunity provider  
and employer**

## FROM THE MANAGER

### Blessings of the Season from Flint Hills



**Chuck Goeckel**

I love everything about this time of year. Just the thought of the holiday season brings a smile to my face and evokes a sense of comfort and nostalgia. Recalling

family gatherings and traditions warms my heart and fills my senses.

It's a time of reflection. I'm grateful for my own family as well as my co-op family. At Flint Hills REC, we're driven by a sense of mission and purpose. Our team feels a strong connection to our community and our members, because we live here too.

While many of our community-focused programs and activities ramp up this time of year, we have several

programs and services in place to help our members year-round. I'd like to remind you about some of these offerings in hopes you'll find them beneficial.

We hope you'll take advantage of SmartHub, an app that empowers you to monitor, manage and pay your energy bill conveniently through your phone. Another service we offer is prepaid metering, which is intended to help budget your monthly energy costs. Flint Hills REC members can pay for electricity before it's used, then use the electricity until the credit expires. During the time period paid for, you'll receive regular feedback on your balance. We also offer budget billing which gives Flint Hills REC members the ability to pay a more level amount each month.

In addition to helping members save today, we're focusing on the future.

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## 2022 Nominating Committee Announced

The members listed in the accompanying chart have been appointed by the board to serve on the 2022 Nominating Committee.

Each of the district nominating committees are to propose two candidates for trustee from their respective district. District nominees will be voted on by the membership with a

### Trustee Nominating Committee

#### District 2

**Shawn Potts, Trustee**  
(3-year term)

**LEE AYERS**

620-343-5367

**JARROD LAUEMANN**

785-410-0002

**TYLER PARKER**

785-466-6290

#### District 3

**Cary Granzow, Trustee**  
(3-year term)

**RICHARD BANDY**

620-628-4566

**SANDY CARLSON**

785-983-4426

**DANIEL OBORNY**

620-732-2146

mail-in ballot that will be mailed out with the *Kansas Country Living* magazine the first week of March 2022. Those trustees whose terms will expire at the 2022 annual meeting are: Shawn Potts District 2 and Cary Granzow District 3.

The Nominating Committee will receive a list of members in their district, which will be of assistance in seeking nominations. The committee members are to nominate two candidates for each trustee position of their respective districts and proposed candidates should be contacted prior to committee meeting to determine their willingness to serve on the

board. All Nominating Committee meetings will be held at the Flint Hills RECA offices 1564 S. 1000 Road., Council Grove on **TUESDAY, JAN. 4, 2022, AT 11:30 AM.**

Nominations for a qualified candidate may also be made by petition, filed at the Council Grove office on or before the close of business on the fifteenth day following the nomination committee's selection of trustee nominees.

For more information on the coop's voting process, see Article V in the member bylaws at [www.flinthillsrec.com](http://www.flinthillsrec.com).

## Blessings of the Season from Flint Hills

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In our area, we're seeing increased interest in renewable energy sources. Recent innovations and advances have led to significant cost decreases in renewable energy, making it more feasible and accessible. In recent years, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) has been able to adjust our fuel mix by incorporating more renewables. Today, over 65% of our fuel mix is comprised of renewable energy sources, the majority of which is nuclear, hydro and wind.

But the most important investment we make is in our local youth. Each year,

we send a junior to attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp held in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, to learn about the cooperative business model.

At the heart of all of these programs is you — the members we proudly serve. Looking back, I'm grateful for so many wonderful community partners and for the positive impact we can continue to make.

This holiday season, I wish you and your loved ones peace, joy and prosperity. Speaking on behalf of our team at Flint Hills REC, I know the future will be bright, because of you.

## Deck the Halls Safely

There's nothing like putting up lights and decorations to get in the holiday spirit. It's something that many do each year without incident, yet the holidays are also one of the most hazardous times of the year when it comes to electrical fires and accidents.

Safe Electricity offers several tips as you deck the halls this season:

- ▶ When decorating outside, look up and around for power lines. Never throw lights or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- ▶ Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself at least 10 feet from power lines.
- ▶ Match plugs with outlets. Do not force a three-pronged plug into a two-pronged outlet or extension cord.
- ▶ Outside, use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use them. Ensure outdoor outlets or extension cords are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI).
- ▶ Never string more strands of lights together than recommended by the manufacturer.
- ▶ Do not staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords. Use plastic or insulated hooks to hang lights.
- ▶ Do not attach cords to utility poles.

The outside of your home is not the only place where you need to be cautious of electrical dangers.

- ▶ Use care when placing and decorating trees inside your home. Place fresh-cut and artificial trees away from heat sources such as registers, fireplaces and radiators.
- ▶ Water fresh-cut trees frequently.
- ▶ Turn lights off before you go to sleep.
- ▶ Set your lights up with a traditional timer or connect them to a smart speaker to allow for easy shut off.

Safe Electricity wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

# YOUTH PROGRAMS **BUILD**

LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY, MEMORIES

1 winner will receive a trip to Leadership Camp and 3 scholarships will be awarded

Flint Hills RECA will be awarding three scholarships and one trip to Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in 2022. Youth must be finishing his/her junior year to be eligible. Apply by **FEB. 18, 2022.**

## ADVENTURE IN THE ROCKIES

How big is a bald eagle? How thrilling is white water rafting? Can I help run a successful cooperative? Find the answer to those questions and more at the **COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP**. Enjoy nature like never before in the beautiful Colorado Rockies. Meet nearly 100 students your age from cooperative communities in Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming while creating memories to last a lifetime. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/cylvideo>.

SCAN TO  
FIND  
OUT MORE  
ABOUT  
CAMP



COOPERATIVE YOUTH  
**LEADERSHIP  
CAMP**

**COLORADO**

JULY 15-21, 2022



Each year, campers go rafting during Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, which is scheduled for July 15-21, 2022.

## Contest Application – Due Feb. 18, 2022

Complete and return this application to Flint Hills RECA, Attn: Travis Griffin, P.O. Box B, Council Grove, KS 66846, or [tgriffin@flinthillsrec.com](mailto:tgriffin@flinthillsrec.com).

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Year in School \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**I AGREE THAT ALL INFORMATION SUPPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION IS ACCURATE AND TRUE.**

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

**I HEREBY GRANT PERMISSION FOR \_\_\_\_\_ TO APPLY FOR THE 2021 COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP OR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR SPONSORED BY FLINT HILLS RECA.**

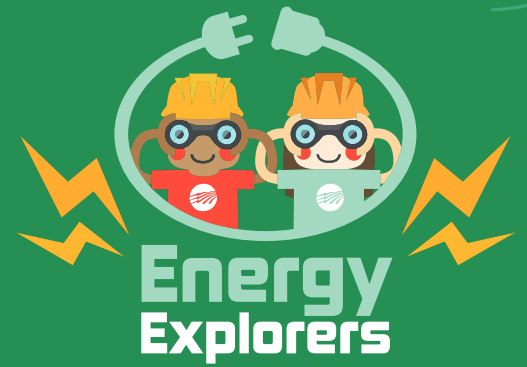
Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

*The safety of our students and chaperones is our top priority. If the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour or Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp organizers believe that travel is unsafe due to concerns with the coronavirus (or any other acts of terrorism, disaster, civil disorder, or curtailment of transportation facilities), the trip will be canceled.*

# HOLIDAY SAFETY WORD SEARCH

Remember to keep electrical safety in mind this holiday season!

Read the safety tips below,  
then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.



D	T	T	X	M	L	N	L	W	V	B	H	G	P	M
P	E	Y	E	N	H	S	A	G	E	T	Q	W	C	O
D	C	R	A	K	P	T	C	K	J	X	N	C	J	Q
E	X	R	E	I	O	J	I	T	B	S	L	E	Y	I
M	P	W	W	T	W	F	R	V	V	Z	U	U	V	J
X	R	K	Z	Z	A	T	T	L	X	W	L	M	X	Y
D	T	Z	G	P	N	W	C	C	N	L	Z	A	H	Z
I	N	S	P	E	C	T	E	D	P	F	R	R	Z	T
D	P	G	V	B	E	E	L	L	Q	P	H	V	W	F
A	J	K	F	L	B	A	E	S	K	H	I	Z	W	M
N	M	V	D	T	W	V	X	R	I	R	B	H	U	C
C	O	N	B	B	R	W	O	H	O	W	Q	N	Q	P
X	A	W	X	S	N	O	I	T	A	R	O	C	E	D
C	K	L	B	T	K	R	A	J	B	C	M	D	Y	P
X	C	M	A	Y	S	K	B	O	Y	Q	M	Q	K	Q

- ▶ Do not overload electrical outlets with too many **decorations** or appliances.
- ▶ Make sure your Christmas tree is **watered** daily.
- ▶ Turn off all **electrical** decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.
- ▶ Never leave a **candle** burning if you're not in the room.
- ▶ Extension cords used for holiday decorations should always be **inspected** for damage or exposed wires.

