

The CIRCUIT



*** Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for Over 75 Years

October 2017



Drawing Winner

HEATH HEWITT is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

Heath, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by October 31, 2017 & give us the account number from your electric bill.

Are you Secure?

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. By raising awareness and understanding of basic cybersecurity practices, we can all work together to combat cyberthreats. Throughout the month of October, look for cybersecurity tips on Ark Valley's Facebook page.

Poster Contest

In honor of National Cooperative Month, children of Ark Valley members who are in elementary school are invited to create an electrical safety poster for a chance to win a prize! During the month of October, mail or deliver your child's poster on an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper to the office for their chance to win a \$10 Wal-Mart gift card. One winner will be chosen from each age category: Kindergarten through 2nd grade, 3rd through 4th grade, and 5th through 6th grade. Be sure to include the child's name, grade, parent's name and account number on the back. Winners will be chosen November 1st.

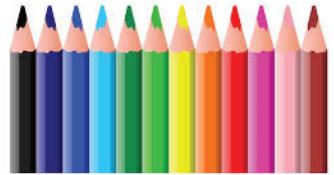
Some ideas for poster topics are:

- **Stay away from power lines & electrical equipment.**

Never go near, touch, or try to move a downed power line or other damaged electrical equipment. Keep ladders, balloons, kites, and other tall equipment out of power lines and out of trees that are near power lines. Do not try to trim a tree that is in a power line.

- **Never mix electricity & water.**

Don't use electrical appliances while wet, or if standing in or near water or the rain. Don't leave appliances plugged in where they might come in contact with water. If a plugged-in appliance falls into the water DO NOT reach in to get it! Turn off the power at the breaker box and then unplug the appliance. In case of an electrical fire, call 911 and disconnect the breaker. Never try to extinguish an electrical fire with water.



- **Never stick toys or other objects into electrical outlets.**

Teach children to stay away from electrical outlets and not to play with electric appliances. Make sure safety covers are inserted on all unused outlets that are accessible to children.

- **Don't overload outlets.**

Avoid overloading outlets with too many appliances. Replace any missing or broken wall plates. Never remove the third prong to make a three-prong plug fit a two-conductor outlet; this could lead to an electrical shock.

Outage Reporting Procedure

When you experience an outage, please continue to report it by calling **888-297-9212**. Although outages can sometimes be detected at the office before members are aware of a problem, the system is not monitored constantly. Please continue to call in outages, so your service can be restored as quickly as possible.

October Is Co-op Month!

October is Co-op Month and to show our appreciation for our members, Ark Valley Electric is holding a drawing for an 3.2 Quart Air Fryer during the month of October.

To be eligible, complete this registration form and mail it with your bill or bring it into the office. The drawing will take place at 8:00 am on November 1st, so please have your registration form in before then. Also, throughout the month of October, we will be distributing an Ark Valley 15 oz. double wall tumbler with lid & straw to each member that comes into the office.

**2017 AVEC MEMBER
APPRECIATION DRAWING**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



Ark Valley Electric Cooperative
10 East 10th Avenue, South Hutchinson, KS 67505

(620) 662-6661
www.arkvalley.com

Our History, Our Future

This is a quote that most people are familiar with, “Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Yet sometimes remembering our history with the goal of repeating it can actually be a good thing. As the nation’s 30,000 cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month this October, it is a great time to take a look back – and a look forward.

Take the history of your electric co-op. Ark Valley Electric Cooperative was founded when neighbors worked together to bring electricity to our rural community. Big investor-owned power companies thought they couldn’t generate enough profit so they bypassed rural areas. Back then, there were frequent meetings among neighbors to discuss the formation of the cooperative. Once established, annual meetings were the “must attend” event of the year. The co-op – on behalf of the member-owners – committed to provide the community with electricity.

Fast forward to today – and tomorrow. Ark Valley currently serves 3,759 members. Over the lifetime of the co-op, \$13,404,263 has been returned to the members in capital credits since 1939.

Although we started out to provide electricity, we understand the spirit that helped create this co-op must be continually nurtured. While times and technology will continue to change, our commitment to you will not.

ATTENTION High School Juniors & Seniors *Don't Miss this FREE Trip of a Lifetime!*

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative is offering two scholarships and one all-expense-paid trip to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp for qualified juniors or seniors.

Eligibility

The student’s parent(s) must be a member of Ark Valley Electric and either a junior or senior in high school to apply. Ark Valley members may nominate students that they know are eligible.

You Could Win

- ▶ **First Place:** A \$1,000 College Scholarship and an all-expense-paid trip to Steamboat Springs, CO.
- ▶ **Second Place:** A \$500 Scholarship.

To Apply: 1. Submit a written copy of a 5-10 min. speech on the present and future value of the electric co-op to its members and community. **OR** 2. Submit a multimedia video or power point on a list of topics provided on the application. Finalists will be asked to present to a panel of Board Members and Co-op staff. **Essays, videos, and power points must be received at Ark Valley by 5:00 p.m. on December 1, 2017.**

For More Information

Contact Donna Alexander, Youth Tour Coordinator, at (620)-662-6661 before November 22, 2017.

Board Meeting *Highlights*

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of August on August 28, 2017.

After the successful implementation of a \$15,465,000.00, multi-year construction work plan to improve customer service, the loan accounting was audited in normal fashion by the Rural Utility Service, the institution who advanced the loan funds to the Cooperative. The auditor found that the entire loan amount was appropriately spent on the construction work plan and all the receipts for the project were properly accounted for by Ark Valley.

Each year, CFC drafts a report analyzing Key Ratio Trends among rural electric cooperatives. Ark Valley’s General Manager, Jackie Holmberg, collected the key ratio data for Ark Valley and compared it to that from other rural electric cooperatives from around the country and in Kansas. The data suggests that Ark Valley is a financially sound and very efficient electric cooperative. Unfortunately, it also shows the Cooperative is adversely impacted by the lower number of customers it serves for such a relatively large geographic area. The low customer density per mile of line causes Ark Valley customers to pay for a larger amount of operations and maintenance expense on average than most other Kansas rural electric cooperative customers.

A Shout Out to Our Members !

As a consumer/member of Ark Valley, the actions you take during the summer to assist in voluntary load-management programs are greatly appreciated. Not only do you help promote greater efficiency, but you also help hold the line on the growing peak demand for electricity - which contributes to the rising costs for electric service.



The Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.