



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1511 14,000 Road, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330
866-784-5500
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC CO-OP

NEWS

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CONTACT US

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Prevent Holiday Fires

Keep your family safe and your holiday season merry with these fire safety tips

COOKING SAFETY IN THE KITCHEN

The kitchen is often the heart of holiday celebrations, but it can also be a hot spot for fires. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fires, accounting for nearly 20% of holiday-related incidents. Here's how to stay safe:

- ▶ Never leave burners or the oven unattended. Keep a fire extinguisher nearby for emergencies.
- ▶ Ensure children stay away from the kitchen, where hot appliances and sharp utensils can pose risks.
- ▶ Install smoke detectors at least 10 feet away from cooking appliances and test them monthly to ensure they're working.

BE AWARE OF HOLIDAY FIRE RISKS

The combination of candles, fireplaces and flammable decorations increases the risk of fires during the holidays. On average, fire departments respond to 150 Christmas tree-related fires and 790 decoration-related fires annually, according to the NFPA.

CANDLE SAFETY

- ▶ Only burn candles where you can keep an eye on them.
- ▶ Extinguish candles before going to bed, leaving the room or leaving the house.
- ▶ Use heat-resistant surfaces for candles, placing them out of reach of children and pets.

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MERRY
Christmas
& HAPPY
NEW YEAR!

From our co-op family to yours, wishing you a joyous holiday season and a peaceful new year!

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON **DEC. 24, DEC. 25, AND JAN. 1.**

Prevent Holiday Fires Continued from page 12A ▶

- ▶ Keep candles away from flammable items like trees, decorations, curtains and furniture.
- ▶ Opt for battery-operated candles near flammable objects.

CHRISTMAS TREE FIRE PREVENTION

A beautiful Christmas tree adds to the festive spirit, but it's essential to ensure it's safe.

- ▶ Choose a fresh tree. Fresh trees have needles that are hard to pull from branches and have a sticky trunk bottom.
- ▶ Keep the tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces, space heaters and vents.
- ▶ Check the water level daily to prevent the tree from drying out.
- ▶ Place the tree away from high-traffic areas and doorways.
- ▶ If using an artificial tree, ensure it is labeled as fire-resistant.
- ▶ When discarding a real tree, place it far from your home and other combustible objects, as dried trees are highly flammable.

HOLIDAY LIGHTING SAFETY

Decorative lights add cheer to the season, but safety is key:

- ▶ Purchase lights from reputable retailers and ensure they are approved by recognized testing labs like UL or CSA.
- ▶ Only use lights designed for outdoor use when hanging outside.
- ▶ Use circuits equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) for outdoor lights.
- ▶ Avoid water and snow when using extension cords and outdoor lights.



- ▶ Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines while hanging lights.
- ▶ Check for broken sockets and frayed wires before use.
- ▶ Avoid plugging too many devices into a single outlet.
- ▶ Turn off indoor and outdoor decorations when going to bed or leaving the house.

FIREPLACE SAFETY TIPS

A cozy fireplace is a holiday favorite, but it requires careful handling.

- ▶ Decorate wisely. Avoid hanging flammable decorations like stockings and greenery directly on the mantel.
- ▶ Perform annual maintenance. Have your chimney and fireplace checked and cleaned at least once a year.
- ▶ Use a screen. Install a screen to prevent embers from landing on floors or carpets.
- ▶ Burn responsibly. Never burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace, as they can ignite rapidly and cause flash fires.

By following these fire safety tips, you can enjoy a joyful and safe holiday season with your loved ones.



What is SmartHub?

SmartHub is a web and mobile app that allows you to take control of all aspects of your utility account. Pay your bills, manage your use and contact us with service issues quickly and easily online or on your mobile device.



Manage Your Account



View and Pay Your Bill



Monitor Usage 24/7



Report Service Issues



Receive Important Updates

Attention High School Juniors

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. will send one high school junior to the Electric Cooperative Youth Leadership in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and one high school junior to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. To find out more, contact Marsha Moses at 866-784-5500.

TO QUALIFY

Applicants must be high school juniors living within the cooperative's territorial boundaries.

TO APPLY

Complete, sign and return the application below by mail or deliver to Twin Valley Electric, P.O. Box 368, 1511 14000 Road, Altamont, KS 67330 by **JAN. 31, 2025**, or apply online at www.twinvalleyelectric.coop.

SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants will study information about electric co-ops provided by Twin Valley and take a quiz. There will also be a short interview.



APPLY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

JUNE 14-20, 2025
AN ALL-EXPENSES-PAID TRIP
TO WASHINGTON, D.C.



An all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by your local electric co-op.

A week of visiting historic monuments, touring world-class museums and meeting elected officials.

An opportunity to develop lifelong friendships with delegates from across the country!

FIND OUT MORE





JULY 11-17, 2025

★★★ COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP ★★★

LEADERSHIP
Learn about the co-op business model and develop leadership skills.

COMMUNITY
Students from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming create a candy co-op, run camp activities and make meaningful connections.

MEMORIES
From rafting on the Colorado River to exploring downtown Steamboat Springs — you'll be sure to capture memories to remember for a lifetime.



LEARN MORE



Name of Applicant: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Birth Date: _____ School: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Phone: _____ Twin Valley Account Number: _____

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

Applicant Signature: _____

I HEREBY GRANT PERMISSION TO THE ABOVE APPLICANT TO COMPETE IN THE YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION.

Signature of Parent or 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 act of terrorism, disaster, civil disorder, or curtailment of transportation facilities) the trip will be canceled.

HOLIDAY FUN WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the words associated with holiday fun in the puzzle below? Use the word bank to check your work.



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



WORD BANK

Jingle bells	Mittens
Candy cane	Snowman
Santa Claus	Hot chocolate



Happy Holidays
from the
Energy Explorers!