



Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) was founded in 1938 by its members. Since that formation, “enhancing the quality of life” is not just the mission of REC but a continual commitment to its members. Originating with approximately 100 members, REC has grown to serve over 12,000 meters in parts of six counties: Garvin, Grady, McClain, Comanche, Stephens and Carter. REC remains committed to providing dependable, reliable service for its members.

Its size and the extent of its quality operations make REC a valued member of our business community and a worthy recipient of the Chamber’s Business Spotlight award for December.

REC is governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees, all of whom are members of the Cooperative. Each member-consumer of the Cooperative is able to vote for these Board of Trustee members. Each Board of Trustees member serves a three-year term. REC has three service districts, and each district has three Board of Trustee members serving in the individual districts.

In addition to the Board of Trustees members, REC’s employees are also local as they also live within REC’s service territory. REC employees can be seen volunteering and serving in the local communities. REC employees serve as little league coaches, volunteer with local civic organizations and are always looking for ways to help in each community.

REC is passionate about providing youth programs to support the development of leadership in students and future leaders. REC offers many different opportunities for students within our service territory including Energy Camp, which is a three-day camp focused on teaching students about the cooperative difference, electrical safety and leadership development.

REC also sponsors students to attend Youth Tour, which is a week-long trip to Washington D.C. to see our government in action and learn more about the history of how electric cooperatives were formed and how each individual student can make impact on their future.

Also, REC sends students to Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, for a week-long leadership camp. While at camp, the students will meet other campers from Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming. The students will form their own cooperative, visit a generation plant, go whitewater rafting and deepen their leadership skills.

In addition to the trips, REC offers a one-day leadership training for high school juniors and seniors within REC's service territory. During the day, students will have an opportunity to hone their skillset and learn how they can help shape their future and encourage those around them. At the end of the day, scholarships are presented to five students in attendance.

REC also offers 10 scholarships to high school seniors, whose parents and legal guardians are members of REC. Each student must submit an application that includes letters of recommendation and write an essay detailing their future plans and an essay about how REC is enhancing the quality of life.

Also, REC hosts an art calendar contest for students (kindergarten through seniors). Each participant submits artwork which is considered for addition to a printed calendar given away during REC's Annual Meeting of the Membership. Each winning artist receives a cash prize.

REC is dedicated to serving its members and the local communities within its service area. It does this by operating with seven cooperative principles, including democratic control, open membership, education and concern for the community. These principles are not a suggestion. They are the standards in which REC continues to follow to enhance the quality of life for all of its members.