



May 2023

## PRIORITIZE ELECTRICAL SAFETY YEAR-ROUND

At Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC), we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, the consumer-members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

PLUG  
INTO  
SAFETY



ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Make electrical safety a priority  
this month, and every month.

[READ THE REST OF THE ARTICLE](#)

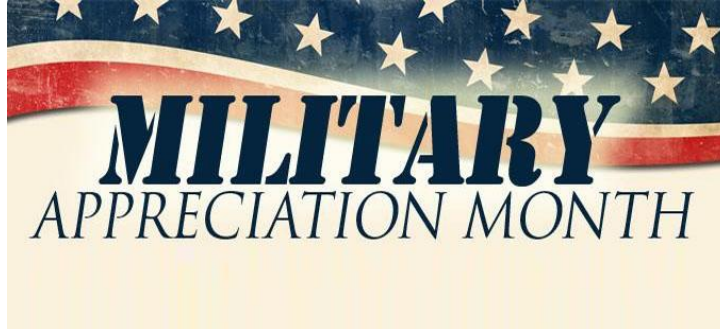
## MAY IS MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

Service. Mission. Country. You likely identified immediately (and correctly) that these three



words describe our nation's veterans. They also succinctly describe a core co-op ethos. While veterans are innately motivated to serve, in a similar vein, electric co-ops are guided by foundational principles that put their community first.

After all, electric co-ops were founded to bring electricity to rural areas where there was none. In doing so, they powered local economies and helped them to thrive. We believe this close connection to an essential mission is why there are so many veterans in the utility industry and why they are such a great fit for electric co-ops.



Today's veterans are highly skilled because everyone who joins the military is either trained in a tech career field or exposed to advanced technology during their years of service. Many veterans have skills in advanced disciplines such as engineering, electronics or mechanics, which are all beneficial for the utility industry. Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWECC) is proud to employ one veteran, and we're especially grateful for his contributions to the co-op and to our community.

[READ THE REST OF THE ARTICLE](#)

## 2023 MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative is holding our annual photo contest for members' photos to be featured in our 2024 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.

- Photos must be taken within the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative service area.
- Photos should capture life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, people, etc.)
- Photos must have a horizontal (landscape) orientation.
- Photos can be in color or black and white.
- Contest will run until August 25, 2023; however, submitted photos can be taken during anytime of the year.



[INFORMATION ON HOW TO ENTER](#)

## TAUTGES REPRESENTS WISCONSIN AT POWERXCHANGE IN NASHVILLE

It's a rare opportunity when

someone has the chance to represent their entire state at a national event, but that's exactly the opportunity Tyler Tautges had when he represented the state of Wisconsin at PowerXchange in Nashville, Tennessee.

PowerXchange, held in early March, is the annual meeting for NRECA.



Tautges' journey to Nashville began in 2019 when Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWECC) sponsored his attendance at Youth Leadership Conference (YLC), which is an annual event youth can attend to learn more about co-ops and to gain leadership skills. While at YLC Tautges ran for a position on the WECA Youth Board. He was elected to the Youth Board by his peers. As a member of Youth Board, Tautges helped plan the YLC event the following year, and it put him on a path to represent the state of Wisconsin at PowerXchange.

READ THE REST OF THE ARTICLE

## Plant Trees Safely

Before you dig, call 811 to locate buried utility lines.

### LOW TREE ZONE

Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

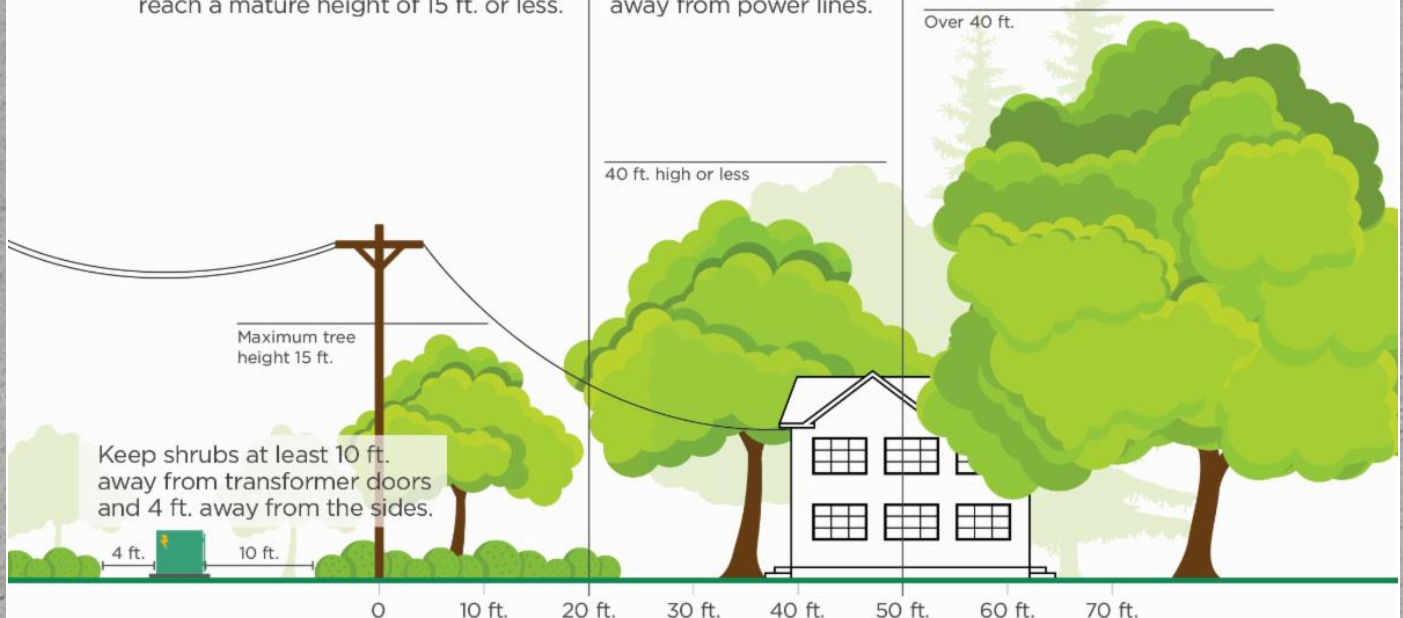
### MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

### LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.

Over 40 ft.



## YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SET FOR JULY 11-13

If you'll be a high school sophomore or junior in the fall,



this conference is for you. This three-day, all-expense paid program is jammed with fun, hands-on activities and seminars designed to help you identify and develop your leadership skills. It is planned by high school students just like you and features nationally recognized speakers.

This year's event, scheduled for July 11-13, will once again be held at UW-Stout in Menomonie.

If you are interested in being a sponsored representative of CWEC, please contact your high school guidance counselor or Bert Lehman at 715-677-2220 or by email at [bert.lehman@cwecoop.com](mailto:bert.lehman@cwecoop.com).



INFORMATION ON HOW TO SIGN-UP



# CALLING ALL THIRD-GRADERS:

You're invited to participate in Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative Association's

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

Submit an original poster supporting  
electrical safety to your local electric  
cooperative by **May 31, 2023**, for a  
chance to win a **\$25 gift card**! The top  
three posters will be entered into the  
statewide poster contest for a chance to  
win one of three great prizes:



**1st place – Chromebook**  
**2nd place – \$100 Gift Card**  
**3rd place – \$75 Gift Card**

*Visit [www.weca.coop](http://www.weca.coop) for details and an entry form.*

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWECC) will also offer  
a \$25 check to one local winner, a \$15 check to a local second  
place poster, and a \$10 check to a local third place poster.  
Registration forms and eligibility details can also be found on  
the CWECC website at [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com) under the "News" tab.

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Thinking about  
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