



**Sumner-Cowley
Electric Co-op., Inc.**

Building on our past. Lighting the way to the future.

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**SUMNER-COWLEY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS FROM THE **WHEAT CAPITAL**

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Don't Wait for the Warning: Severe Weather Safety Starts Now

September is National Preparedness Month

It is easy to become complacent about the weather, but severe weather claims hundreds of lives each year.

From tornadoes and floods to lightning, high winds, extreme heat and cold, severe weather can cause destruction and power outages. Many people end up in dangerous situations because they think they can outrun or outsmart a storm, extreme temperatures or other hazardous conditions. Being prepared with supplies, a plan, and safety knowledge can help protect you and your family.

WATCH VS. WARNING

When severe weather is approaching,

many people turn on the TV, check a weather app or go online for updates. It is important to know the difference between a watch and a warning.

A WATCH MEANS conditions are favorable for severe weather, such as a severe thunderstorm or tornado. Stay alert, monitor conditions, and take precautionary steps, such as unplugging electronics and checking your emergency kit.

A WARNING MEANS severe weather is occurring, is imminent or is indicated by radar. Take shelter immediately in the safest part of the building, such as a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor, away from windows.

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Sumner-Cowley Electric Fuels Growth of Student Leaders at



Sumner-Cowley Electric representatives Rogan Wetta (left) from Wellington High School and Joslin Bartelson from Conway Springs High School.

JOSLIN BARTELSON and **ROGAN WETTA**, representing Sumner-Cowley Electric, recently participated in the 49th Annual Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) held July 10-16 near scenic Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The camp brought together 80 high school student leaders from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming, sponsored by 46 electric and agriculture cooperatives.

Joslin and Rogan were selected by Sumner-Cowley Electric because of their exemplary leadership skills, academic excellence, involvement in extracurricular activities, and strong character as demonstrated in their applications. These student leaders underwent rigorous evaluation, which consisted of listing their academic achievements and their leadership experience at school and in their community. Student applicants were also asked to answer a short essay question about a chosen leadership topic and to submit a short video to teach the selection committee something of their choice or to talk about what this trip would mean to them.

Throughout the weeklong camp, students gained hands-on experience in cooperative business operations by forming and managing a mock candy cooperative. They elected a board of directors, appointed a general manager, created committees, and held daily membership meetings, mirroring the real-world structure of member-owned cooperatives. Sumner-Cowley Electric

was well represented, with Joslin selected as the board secretary and Rogan selected as the general manager. Educational sessions covered leadership development, conflict resolution, and co-op career opportunities. Highlights included electric safety demonstrations by cooperative linemen, a live raptor and avian presentation from HawkQuest, and a tour of the Craig Power Station.

CYLC offered more than just professional growth opportunities; it fostered a sense of camaraderie and adventure. Students experienced the charm of downtown Steamboat Springs and braved the rapids of the Colorado River on a rafting trip. Recreational highlights included a volleyball tournament, swimming, a talent show, and a dance.

Reflecting on their experience, Joslin shared: "I was affected most by meeting everyone at camp and realizing that they're like me and we all have the same goals. It was inspiring to see everyone come out of their comfort zone to volunteer for anything and everything. That showed me it's okay to put myself out there."

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

“This camp made me look at my life from a different perspective, pushing me out of my comfort zone emotionally and showing me that other people feel the same way I do about key points of my life,” Wetta said. “Hearing from all of the speakers inspired me to become both a better leader and member of my community.”

“The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp is a meaningful way to support our members and to invest in the future of our communities,” said Tanner Ford, member engagement and creative services at Sumner-Cowley Electric. “We’re proud to support opportunities like this that help young people grow as leaders, build confidence, and bring those skills back home to make a difference.”

Sumner-Cowley Electric sponsors the trip for students each year. For more information about the camp or how to apply, contact Tanner Ford at 888-326-3356 or tannerf@sucocoop.com.

“This camp made me look at my life from a different perspective, pushing me out of my comfort zone emotionally and showing me that other people feel the same way I do about key points of my life.”

ROGAN WETTA, 2026 CYLC DELEGATE



Joslin Bartelson (back row, second from left) was selected to serve as the secretary on the CYLC Board of Directors.



Rogan Wetta (left) working with his group to build their candy co-op distribution system.



Joslin Bartelson (middle) and fellow campers at iFly.

Don't Wait for the Warning: Severe Weather Safety Starts Now

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FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO STAY SAFE:

- ▶ Install a weather app and enable severe weather alerts.
- ▶ Remember that a warning means it is time to act.
- ▶ Have an evacuation plan for hazards such as floods or wildfires.
- ▶ Establish a family communication plan, including each person's responsibilities and a meeting place in case you are separated.
- ▶ Keep emergency kits stocked and up to date. Include a first-aid kit, portable phone charger, flashlights, batteries, food, water and enough supplies to last at least three days.
- ▶ Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using a generator.
- ▶ Use a generator only outdoors in an open area, never in a garage, carport or other enclosed space.
- ▶ Keep portable generators at least 20 feet from doors, windows and vents.

KNOW HOW TO KEEP OTHERS SAFE

Storms can be unpredictable and can damage the power grid. Severe weather may also make utility equipment harder to access. During and after major

weather events, line crews may be out restoring power and making repairs.

Everyone should do their part to help keep lineworkers and utility crews safe:

- ▶ Slow down and move over in work zones.
- ▶ Do not distract crews while they work.
- ▶ Direct service questions to Sumner-Cowley Electric.
- ▶ Check Sumner-Cowley Electric's social media channels for outage updates, if available.
- ▶ Never plug a generator into a wall outlet. Doing so can cause backfeed, which sends electricity from your home back onto power lines.

STAY ALERT DURING CLEANUP:

- ▶ If the power is out, stay indoors unless you must leave to remain safe.
- ▶ Be alert for downed power lines that may be hidden by ice, snow, standing water or storm debris.
- ▶ Never approach a downed power line. Call 911, then keep others away.
- ▶ Do not trim trees or branches within 10 feet of an overhead power line.

Power outages, downed lines, and generator misuse can create serious risks during and after severe weather. To learn more about keeping loved ones safe, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH



 **Be ready before the storm.**



 **Stay connected during an outage.**



 **Learn how to use your backup generator safely.**



 **Create a plan for your loved ones.**

SOURCE: NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

September marks the start of fall's shoulder season, often bringing temperatures mild enough to give your HVAC system a break. Open windows and use ceiling fans when weather allows. It's also a great time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance, as fall often offers better appointment availability. Regular tune-ups can improve efficiency, reduce the risk of breakdowns and keep your home comfortable year-round. SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

