

# Mitchell

# EMC



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CAMILLA, GEORGIA  
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# Washington Youth Tour 2015

## A Community Partner Since 1937



# It's All About Youth Leadership Event Unites Students in Washington, D.C.

**When 1,700 of America's best and brightest students recently gathered for one week in the nation's capital, they overwhelmingly agreed it was the experience of a lifetime.**

They were singing the praises of the 2015 Washington Youth Tour, a leadership event in which electric membership cooperatives in Georgia and EMCs across the U.S. sent hundreds of high school students to Washington, D.C., including 111 student delegates from Georgia.

Held June 11-18 this year, the Youth Tour is an annual event and fully sponsored by 38 of the EMCs in Georgia, including Mitchell EMC. It stands as Georgia's oldest leadership program for teens to applaud them for leading the way in their local communities, provide them a chance to see history come to life and give them a rare opportunity to connect with other student leaders like themselves from across the country.

"Youth Tour is our way of saying 'thank you for choosing to be a leader.' We know in today's world, it's difficult to stand up for the right things, and these students do that every day," said Gale Cutler, Georgia EMC's Washington Youth Tour Director. "We're delighted to give them this amazing opportunity."

According to Heather Greene, the Youth Tour is a natural extension of EMCs' role as major contributors

to the state as a whole, providing leadership in education, school and youth programs, charitable giving and community support.

In fact, this year, Mitchell EMC and other electric co-ops in Georgia celebrated 50 years of sponsoring students for the prestigious leadership event.

The first Washington Youth Tour for teens in Georgia took place in 1965 and involved a dozen students. It also included an invitation from President Lyndon Johnson to a Rose Garden reception in the White House.

Since that time, more than 3,000 teens have been sponsored by EMCs in Georgia and given the same opportunity to absorb the country's rich heritage and to understand the



## Leadership Event

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importance of their participation in a productive society.

“Electric co-ops do much more than provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity,” says Tony Tucker, President and CEO. “We’re dedicated to improving the future of students in our community because we know they are next in line to lead the way.”

To give them a boots-on-the-ground experience, the students visited historic landmarks and national treasures such as Arlington Cemetery, the Smithsonian Museums, Holocaust Museum, Mount Vernon, Supreme Court, Capitol, Washington Monument, and the MLK, FDR, Jefferson, World War II, Korean War, and Lincoln memorials. For the first time this year, they visited the new

American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial.

The students also gained perspective on some of today’s important issues and their role as involved citizens during discussions with staff and/ or members of Georgia’s congressional delegation, including personal visits and photos with Senators David Perdue and Johnny Isakson and U.S. Representatives Buddy Carter, Doug Collins, Jody Hice, Barry Loudermilk, Austin Scott, Lynn Westmoreland and Rob Woodall.

All the state delegations convened for National Youth Day, sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Assoc., to learn from public figures and other inspirational speakers, including Jo Ann Emerson, NRECA’s chief

executive officer.

Photos from this year’s Tour are posted on the national Youth Tour Web site at <http://photos.youthtour.org/2015-Youth-Tour/Georgia/>

Mitchell EMC is a consumer-owned cooperative providing electricity and related services to 26,000 consumers in 14 counties.

**Georgia EMC** is the statewide trade association representing the state’s 41 EMCs, Oglethorpe Power Corp., Georgia Transmission Corp. and Georgia System Operations Corp. Collectively, Georgia’s customer-owned EMCs provide electricity and related services to 4.4 million people, nearly half of Georgia’s population, across 73 percent of the state’s land area.

# A change for the better

By Anne Prince

## It’s the little things

When it comes to energy efficiency in the home, sometimes small changes can make a big impact. A small, unglamorous task like changing the filters on your HVAC system makes your unit run more efficiently – keeping your house cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. It also saves money. And the savings gained from having your system run more efficiently can be applied to more fun or entertaining pursuits that your family can enjoy together.

## The lowdown on dirt

As you move around your home, you drive dust into the air from carpets, furniture and drapes. Regardless of where it comes from, dust and dirt trapped in a system’s air filter leads to several problems, including:

- Reduced air flow in the home and up to 15 percent higher operating costs
- Costly duct cleaning or replacement
- Lowered system efficiency

## Making the switch

Now, that you know the facts, it’s time to get busy changing or cleaning the air filter in your heating/cooling system. Many HVAC professionals recommend that you clean or change the filter on your air conditioner or furnace monthly. It’s simple and easy, and in many cases, it only takes a few minutes.

Filters are available in a variety of types and efficiencies, rated by a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV). MERV, a method developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, tests filter effectiveness. The higher the MERV number, the higher the filter’s effectiveness at keeping dust out of your system. While most types of filters must be replaced,

some filters are reusable. And don’t forget about the winter months. Your heating system needs to work as efficiently as possible to keep you warm (and your loved one feeling snugly), and a clean air filter helps it do just that.

Heating and cooling professionals recommend turning your system off before changing the air filter. Make sure that the arrow on the filter – which indicates the direction of the airflow – is pointing toward the blower motor. When you’ve made the change, turn your system back on.

## A teachable moment

Beyond saving money and improving the air quality in your home, changing your air filter is a great opportunity to teach your family more about energy efficiency. Consider getting everyone involved, and the entire family will learn how simple changes can make a big difference.

*Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

## Maintaining Your Air Conditioner

Annual maintenance can help improve your comfort and the efficiency of your air conditioner while prolonging the life of your unit. Hire a certified professional when your unit needs more than basic maintenance.



Source: Department of Energy

# Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using a rigid venting material - not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## Employee SPOTLIGHT



**Phillip Holt** is Mitchell EMC's August Employee Spotlight. Phillip is a Dispatcher in the Camilla District Office. He has been employed with Mitchell EMC for 36 years.

When asked what he enjoyed most about his job, Phillip said, "I enjoy the fact that no two days are the same. I have the opportunity to help many people on a daily basis, which I really love."

Phillip stated, "I remember after the first couple years of being employed at Mitchell EMC, we had a bad storm that left many consumers without power. It took several days for us to restore power to everyone. We worked long hours with little sleep, but when the last group of consumers were back on they were so happy. It was a great feeling knowing that I helped them when they needed me."

**Note:** If you move or no longer have electric service with Mitchell EMC, it is important that members keep their address current, so that future disbursements can be properly mailed. Capital credits are reserved for members even if they move out of the Mitchell EMC service area. Mitchell EMC will make a diligent effort to send a check by mail.

### Statement of Equal Employment Opportunity

All applicants for employment shall be considered and hired on the basis of merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or past or present military status. The employment practices shall ensure equal treatment of all employees, without discrimination as to promotion, discharge, rates of pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or past or present military status. M/F/V/DV/D

# WATT'S



## Squash Dressing

1 pound fresh yellow squash  
1/4 cup butter  
1 large sweet onion, chopped  
2 celery ribs, chopped  
1 14-ounce can  
chicken broth  
3/4 teaspoon black  
pepper  
1/4 teaspoon red  
pepper  
5 cups cooked,  
crumbled cornbread



Wash and slice squash and boil in salted water until tender. Drain well. Saute chopped onion, red pepper and celery in butter. Combine all ingredients and mix well. Pour mixture into a greased 9x13 casserole dish and bake at 350 degrees for 40 to 45 minutes. Note: a 16 ounce can of squash may be substituted for fresh squash.

*Thanks!*

to **Blanch Kolbie**,  
Mitchell County, GA,  
for sharing this recipe.

## *Share & Win!*

Send us your favorite quick and easy dinner recipes. If your recipe is chosen for print, you can win a **\$25 credit** on your next Mitchell EMC bill.

Send recipes to Heather Greene, P.O.  
Box 409, Camilla, GA 31730 or email to  
heather.greene@mitchellemc.com.