

Mitchell EMC



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CAMILLA, GEORGIA
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Mitchell EMC Offers Students Lessons in Leadership and Civic Responsibility

“Leadership is not about titles, positions or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another.”
~ John C. Maxwell

Outstanding students from across Georgia, including **Bryant Collins**, Southwest GA Academy (pictured right) and **Sam Summerlin**, Westwood Schools (pictured left), recently returned from the Washington Youth Tour, a week-long leadership experience exclusively for teens sponsored by the electric cooperatives in Georgia, including Mitchell EMC.

From June 14-21 Collins and Summerlin joined 1,800 of their talented and ambitious peers in Washington, D.C. to build leadership skills, understand the importance of civic involvement and community service, to tour the nation’s historic sites and gain a greater understanding of the country’s rich and storied heritage. When combined, various aspects of the trip provide a unique lesson that cannot be duplicated in any classroom.

According to Heather Greene with Mitchell EMC, a carefully chaperoned tour of the nation’s capital and its treasured monuments and memorials not only provides students a meaningful history lesson but the opportunity to experience it through interactive exhibits and firsthand accounts.

In Georgia, this year’s contingent included 112 student delegates, 13 chaperones and three tour directors who attended a kick-off banquet in Atlanta for the student delegates and their families before departing the next morning for D.C. for the remainder of the trip.

“The students get to see history come to life as they learn of the people and places which helped shape our country,” says Heather Greene with Mitchell EMC.

“They also meet other delegates from across the country from different walks of life, different back-grounds and different life experiences to give them a broader perspective and deeper appreciation of the world at large.”

With a firm commitment to enriching our future, the purpose of the Youth Tour is to help EMCs promote stronger communities and a stronger nation by giving young people the ability and desire to make meaningful, lifelong contributions to their communities.

While in D.C., stops included Mount Vernon, Arlington

Cemetery, U.S. Capitol, National Archives, Supreme Court, Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Museums and Kennedy Center. The students also toured the revered Jefferson, Lincoln, FDR, MLK, WWII, Vietnam and Korean War memorials. In addition, the group had dinner aboard the Cherry Blossom Riverboat, which included sites of historic D.C. and ended with a dance.

In addition to taking in the sights of the nation’s capital, students gained perspective on some of today’s important issues and their role as involved citizens. Everyone had the opportunity to attend a congressional town hall meeting and visit with Senators Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff.

Finally, all state groups convened for National Youth Day, sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, to learn from public figures and other inspirational speakers, including Olympic gold medalist and author Mike Schlappi.

Nearly 50,000 students from rural areas and small towns across America have participated in this program. Some Youth Tour alumni have gone on to design airplanes, to lead companies and to serve in the highest ranks of government, including the U.S. Senate, and many more are serving in some role in state and local government.

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

Mitchell EMC is a consumer-owned cooperative providing electricity and related services to 15,215 consumers primarily in Baker, Dougherty, Mitchell and Worth Counties, and in parts of Calhoun, Colquitt, Decatur, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Thomas, Tift and Turner 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.



EPA's Power Plant Rule Threatens Electric Reliability

By Tony Tucker, President & CEO

As a consumer-member of Mitchell EMC, keeping the lights on at a cost you can afford is the focal point of everything we do. Transparency is one of our core values, so in addition to sharing co-op successes, I believe we also have a responsibility to tell you about the challenges too.

In May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a rule that impacts energy production from power plants. The power plant rule will undoubtedly threaten access to reliable electricity for our local community and communities across the country.

The rule constrains existing coal and new natural gas plants by requiring them to install carbon capture and storage (CCS)—a technology that has potential but has not been proven to be viable as required. No power plant in North America currently uses CCS at the scale and levels mandated by EPA. When power plants aren't able to comply with EPA's CCS requirements, they will be required to shut down, significantly limit operations, or switch fuels. These unrealistic standards will force the unnecessary and early shutdown of many power plants that currently provide reliable electricity 24/7.

Renewable sources, such as solar and wind, are important components of our overall generation mix. But given the intermittent nature of these energy sources, we simply cannot depend on them because the wind doesn't always blow and the sun doesn't always shine. The need for always-available power generating resources is still essential.

The timing of the power plant rule is equally troubling. At the same time the EPA is leading our nation down the path to fewer power plants, utilities are facing a surge in electricity demand – driven by the onshoring of manufacturing, the growth of the

American economy and the rapid expansion of data centers to support artificial intelligence, e-commerce and cryptocurrency.

Many states have already experienced rolling outages, and if the supply of electricity is further threatened by the EPA's power plant rule, the problem will only get worse. In fact, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation's electric reliability watchdog, recently forecasted that over the next five years, all or parts of 19 states are at high risk of rolling power outages during normal peak electricity demand conditions.

It's also no secret that when demand is high and supply is low, costs go up. We're concerned about threats to reliability as well as cost increases to our members.

I don't say all of this to worry you, but I do want our members to understand the challenges that lie ahead. Just as we've always done, we will look for solutions that serve our members best. We are joining electric co-ops across the country to fight these regulations, and we are working with our local elected officials to help them understand the consequences this would have on all Georgians.

Co-ops are no strangers to innovation, and we're taking proactive steps to address today's energy challenges and tomorrow's energy needs. We've led the charge on industry endeavors such as community solar projects, and we'll continue to explore new technologies and strategies that bolster reliability and our local grid.

Electric cooperatives like Mitchell EMC deliver power to 42 million Americans. At the end of the day, our top priority is to meet our members' energy needs, and we must have reliable electricity available to do that.

If you're interested in learning more about policy impacts to power reliability, or to make your voice heard on this matter, visit voicesforcooperativepower.com.

IMPACTS OF THE EPA'S POWER PLANT RULE

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) power plant rule threatens access to reliable electricity for millions of Americans. The EPA's power plant rule will:



- 1 Force the premature closure of many power plants that currently provide electricity 24/7.
- 2 Mandate the deployment of unproven carbon capture and storage technology.
- 3 Jeopardize the reliability of the grid at a time when America is already facing a surge in electricity demand.
- 4 Heighten the risk of rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the electric grid.
- 5 Increase costs for consumers as utilities are forced to pay for new power generation to comply with the EPA rule.

5 Tips for a Safe Harvest

Electrical safety during harvest season requires vigilance and proactive measures. Follow these tips to reduce the risk of electrical accidents.

1. Maintain at least a 10-foot distance from power lines when operating equipment like grain augers, elevators and other tall machinery.
2. Use a spotter to navigate safely around power lines and other electrical equipment.
3. Ensure all farm workers are trained on electrical safety procedures.
4. Regularly inspect all electrical equipment and machinery for signs of wear and damage.
5. Keep first aid kits and emergency contact numbers in an easily accessible location.



Mitchell EMC offices will closed September 2 in observance of Labor Day. To all who help drive progress and build our shared future, we hope you enjoy a well-deserved break!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Now is the time to schedule annual maintenance for your home's heating system. During fall months, HVAC technicians are typically less busy, making this an excellent time for maintenance and any necessary repairs before the winter months. A qualified technician can clean filters, check for leaks and ensure all system components are working efficiently to keep your home cozy and warm when the temperatures begin to drop.

Source: energy.gov



PREPAREDNESS MONTH WORD SEARCH

Did you know September is National Preparedness Month? There are several ways you and your family can be prepared for an emergency.

Read the tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.

(Use the word bank as a guide.)



PREPAREDNESS TIPS:

Keep a list of emergency **phone numbers** in a location that's easy to find.

Learn about different types of **emergency alerts** and understand what they mean.

Make an emergency **kit** that includes items like flashlights, batteries, water, non-perishable food and a First Aid Kit.

Designate a **safe area** in your home in the event of a severe storm. This should be an area in the center of the home, away from windows.

Make sure **smoke alarms** are installed on every floor of your home and outside bedrooms. Test alarms every month to ensure they're working properly.



WORD BANK: phone numbers, emergency, alerts, kit, safe area, smoke alarms



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 applications 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



Photo Credit: <https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/mandarin-broccoli-salad/>

Broccoli-Orange Salad

Ingredients

- 4 cups fresh broccoli flowerets
- 1 small purple onion, thinly sliced
(separated into rings and cut into small pieces)
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup pecan pieces, toasted
- 1 15-oz can mandarin oranges, drained
- 5-6 slices of bacon, cooked crisp and crumbled

Dressing

- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1-1/2 tablespoon white vinegar

Instructions

Combine broccoli, onion, raisins, and pecans in a bowl; add bacon; set aside. Combine mayonnaise, sugar, vinegar then stir until sugar dissolves. Add to broccoli mixture, stirring to coat. Gently stir in mandarin oranges. Cover and refrigerate for at least 3 hours. This salad is better if made the day before serving.

Submitted by:

Alice Penny, Baker County

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.