



**DSO**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**DSO ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

# HEADLINER

## Board

**Brian Lang**  
Solomon, President

**James Christopher**  
Falun, Director

**Ken Hedberg**  
Marquette, Vice President

**Dane Clark**  
Gypsum, Director

**David Mueller**  
Tampa, Secretary

**Sheila Hummel**  
Hope, Director

**Dean Allison**  
Delphos, Director

**Bruce Spare**  
Assaria, Director

**David Butler**  
Junction City, Director

## Staff

**Timothy J. Power**  
CEO

**Judy Barten**  
CFO

**Mike Olberding**  
Operations Manager

**Derrick Rutherford**  
Communications Manager

## Office Hours

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday  
Open over the lunch hour

## Payment Locations

**CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK IN  
WALMART SUPERCENTER**

521 E. Chestnut St., Junction City, KS 66441

**FARMERS STATE BANK**

447 Harrison, Lindsborg, KS 67456

## Outage Information

**IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE, CALL  
800-376-3533.** After-hours calls will be  
answered by dispatch and forwarded to  
standby personnel.

## Find Out More

 facebook.com/DSOElectricCooperative

 @DSOElectricCoop

## Fall Reminders

BY DERRICK RUTHERFORD

*"A fallen leaf is nothing more than a summer's wave goodbye." — author unknown*

While it is hard to say goodbye to summer sun, warmth and fun, fall brings calmness before the end of the year and hope for the year to come. The days grow shorter but time seems to slow down allowing us time to ponder, reflect and start creating a new path to experience. As we each look ahead, here are some reminders of what you can look for at DSO.

### Director Elections

We will soon accept petitions for four seats on the board of directors. Our coverage area is divided into three districts. Individuals who wish to run for a director's seat need to be active members of the cooperative and bona fide residents of the district they wish to represent. Information packets for those seeking to be candidates will be available for pick up at our office in

Solomon, as well as online, beginning Dec. 1, 2020.

### Scholarships

This program awards 10 \$1,000 scholarships to its members, or their dependents, who have chosen to pursue higher education in Kansas. We contact all the area high schools in our service territory annually to remind them about these scholarships. Check our website for more information. The application deadline is Feb. 5, 2021.

### Youth Tour

Every year we award two trips to two high school juniors whose parents are members of the cooperative.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., takes place in mid-June. Electric cooperatives across the country select students for this trip and these students get to experience a trip unlike any other. They visit Old

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## Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

Our offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27, in observance of the holiday. From our co-op family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving!





# Be a Smart Cookie

## Holiday Baking Tips

### TEST SMOKE DETECTORS

Make sure they are working properly.

### WATCH YOUR SLEEVES

Loose sleeves are not ideal when in the kitchen.

### PUT A LID ON IT

Have lids in handy in case of a grease fire.

### OLD THINGS DON'T BECOME NEW

Don't use appliances in disrepair.

### HOW THE COOKIE CRUMBLES

Consider having a fire extinguisher on hand.

### WHERE THERE'S HEAT, THERE COULD BE FIRE

Keep flammables such as pot holders away from the stove.

### NOT CHILD'S PLAY

Keep children and pets away from cooking areas.

### KEEPING TIME

Use a timer when the oven or stove is on.

### STAY WITH IT

Don't leave the room if you are broiling, frying or simmering food.

### PAY ATTENTION

Take a nap after the feast.



# Fall Reminders

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Town Alexandria, attend a theater performance, tour the Holocaust Memorial Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the Smithsonian Museum. They also have meetings with legislators and their staff on Capitol Hill.

The second trip is to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in mid-July. Students join fellow students from Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming who were selected by their respective cooperatives to attend the camp. During their stay, students visit Lookout Mountain and tour Trapper Coal Mine and the Craig Generation Plant. In addition to participating in a variety of activities, students gain hands-on business experience forming and operating their own cooperatives.

Contact our office today to learn more about these trips. The application deadline is Feb. 5, 2021.

### SmartHub

Our SmartHub online and mobile app provide features that help you manage your account. SmartHub allows you access to your account information anytime from anywhere you can get online. Track your usage and take the guesswork out of your bill. Through detailed graphs, you will be able to check your usage history (hour by hour), which can help you find ways to reduce and save. Go to your online app store and download it today!

### Don't Forget to Fall Back

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020, at 2 a.m. On Saturday night, set your clocks back one hour.

# Don't Bake Up High Energy Bills

Avoid high energy bills and long cook times by following a few oven-efficiency guidelines this holiday season.

- ▶ Prepare and chop all necessary ingredients before you turn on your oven. This includes defrosting items in the refrigerator ahead of time.
- ▶ Consider using a smaller appliance. Often times, you can use a counter-top oven, slow cooker or microwave to reheat or cook small meal portions, which saves energy by heating a smaller space. Microwave ovens may also reduce cooking energy by as much as 80%.
- ▶ Preheat the oven to the exact temperature required. Preheating is not necessary for foods that cook for several hours.
- ▶ Leave the oven door shut as much as possible. Opening the door lowers the temperature as much as 25°F.
- ▶ If your oven is outdated, consider switching to an ENERGY STAR® model that has a convection

feature. According to Energystar.gov, convection ovens use 20% less energy a month compared to a standard oven. Self-cleaning ovens are also more energy efficient because they have better insulation.

- ▶ When picking out cookware, brass, glass and ceramic versions conduct heat more efficiently than other materials, which can reduce cooking times.
- ▶ Regularly clean and maintain your kitchen appliances and cookware. Grime or grease builds up in your oven, and using warped pots and pans can increase baking times and energy use.
- ▶ If you have a self-cleaning oven, the best time to use the feature is just after you've cooked a meal — the oven will still be hot, and the cleaning feature will require less energy. More is less! If possible, prepare extra portions of your meal and cook them together. Reheating leftovers uses much less energy than cooking from scratch.

# 5 Electrical Safety Features to Be Thankful For

Most days, we go about our lives without thinking too much about the many electronic gadgets and electrical safety features that allow us to perform simple tasks at work and home without a second thought. This Thanksgiving, let's take a moment to be thankful for some of the devices that help make our daily tasks safer and more convenient.

## For Your Safety: Built-In Devices

**GFCIS:** Ground fault circuit interrupters are inexpensive electrical devices that can either be installed in your electrical system or built into a power cord to protect you from severe electrical shocks. GFCIs are generally installed where electrical circuits may accidentally come into contact with water, such as kitchens, bath and laundry rooms, outdoors or in the garage. Be sure to test GFCIs monthly to make sure they are working properly.

**AFCIS:** Arc fault circuit interrupters could potentially prevent more than 50% of electrical fires that occur every year, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. These safety devices are typically found within your electrical panel or receptacles in the wall. An arc fault is a dangerous electrical problem caused by damaged, overheated or stressed electrical wiring or devices.

**CIRCUIT BREAKERS:** Usually found in a garage, basement or laundry room, circuit breaker boxes are an essential safety feature in your home, preventing electrical injuries and fires. Each box is filled with individual circuit breakers designed to 'trip,' or shut off when necessary to stop the flow of electricity. Circuits trip for several reasons, including overloaded circuits, drawing too much power from one circuit, ground faults, abnormal flow in a circuit, and short circuits when current travels along an unintended path.

## Use Them Safely: Convenience Items

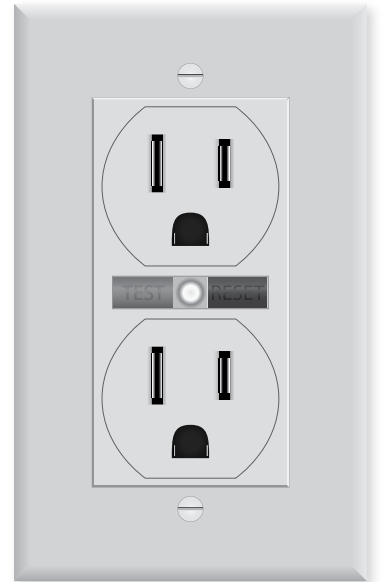
**DEVICE CHARGERS:** Whether for work or personal use, most of us can't go a day without accessing our favorite cell phone, tablet, laptop or other portable essentials. While we rely on our chargers to keep these items running, be sure to treat charging components with care and use them correctly. Here are some safety tips:

- ▶ Personal electronic devices should NOT be placed under

pillows or used on or underneath bedding.

- ▶ Do not leave cords plugged in when not in use because little ones or pets who put them in their mouths can get burned or shocked.
  - ▶ Do not leave them around when not in use because toddlers might try to insert the wrong end into an electrical outlet and get shocked or burned. Remember to childproof your outlets as well if they are not the tamper-resistant versions.
  - ▶ Don't use charging devices near water or in damp conditions.
  - ▶ Replace original charging components with the same brand and type whenever possible. Using off-brand or generic versions can be dangerous if they are faulty.
- EXTENSION CORDS AND MULTI-OUTLET POWER STRIPS:** Extension cords and multi-outlet power strips or devices, while incredibly handy, should always be inspected for damage prior to use. Use them as a temporary fix, not a long-term solution, and use them safely:
- ▶ Plug them directly into an outlet, and not into another extension cord or power strip.
  - ▶ If you are using a strip or extension cord outside, make sure it is rated for outdoor use.
  - ▶ Never use an item that feels hot or is damaged in any way.
  - ▶ Make sure these convenience items (cords and strips) are approved by a reputable independent testing laboratory like UL.
  - ▶ When using an extension cord, make sure the wattage rating of the cord and the appliance match.


These are just a few electrical safety items to be thankful for this year.



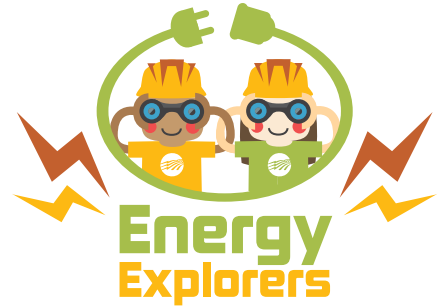
## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets. Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)



# ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN FOR THE FAMILY



There are several easy ways you and your family can save energy at home! Print this page, assign each energy-saving task, then place it on your fridge so your family can work together to save energy — and money.

| WAY TO SAVE ENERGY   | ASSIGNED TO: |
|--|--------------|
| Turn off lights in empty rooms.  |              |
| Replace any incandescent and/or CFL bulbs with LED bulbs.  |              |
| Turn off electronics that aren't in use (TVs, gaming consoles, etc.).                                  |              |
| Unplug phone chargers that aren't in use.  |              |
| Turn off ceiling fans in empty rooms.  |              |
| Adjust the thermostat when you leave the house. (Set it higher in the summer and lower in the winter.) |              |
| Once a week, make a meal that doesn't require cooking in the kitchen. (Make PB&Js or cook outside.)    |              |
| Make sure all doors and windows are closed when the air conditioner or heater is running.              |              |

