



# country living

For members of East Central Electric Cooperative

## YOUTH

## Find Money For College Through Your Electric Co-op

Students who further their education by either going to college or attending a career development school find it easier to get ahead in life. But tuition costs can make it difficult for some students to attend.

East Central Electric's Operation Roundup program is committed to helping local students develop rewarding careers by making higher learning more affordable.

This year Operation Roundup will make \$41,000 in scholarships available to students from 41 local high schools and home schools. One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to one student per school.

"We are happy to make this money available to students who qualify because it helps them pay their tuition," says Billy Moore, ECE director of member services. "If it helps local kids get ahead in life, we're all for it."

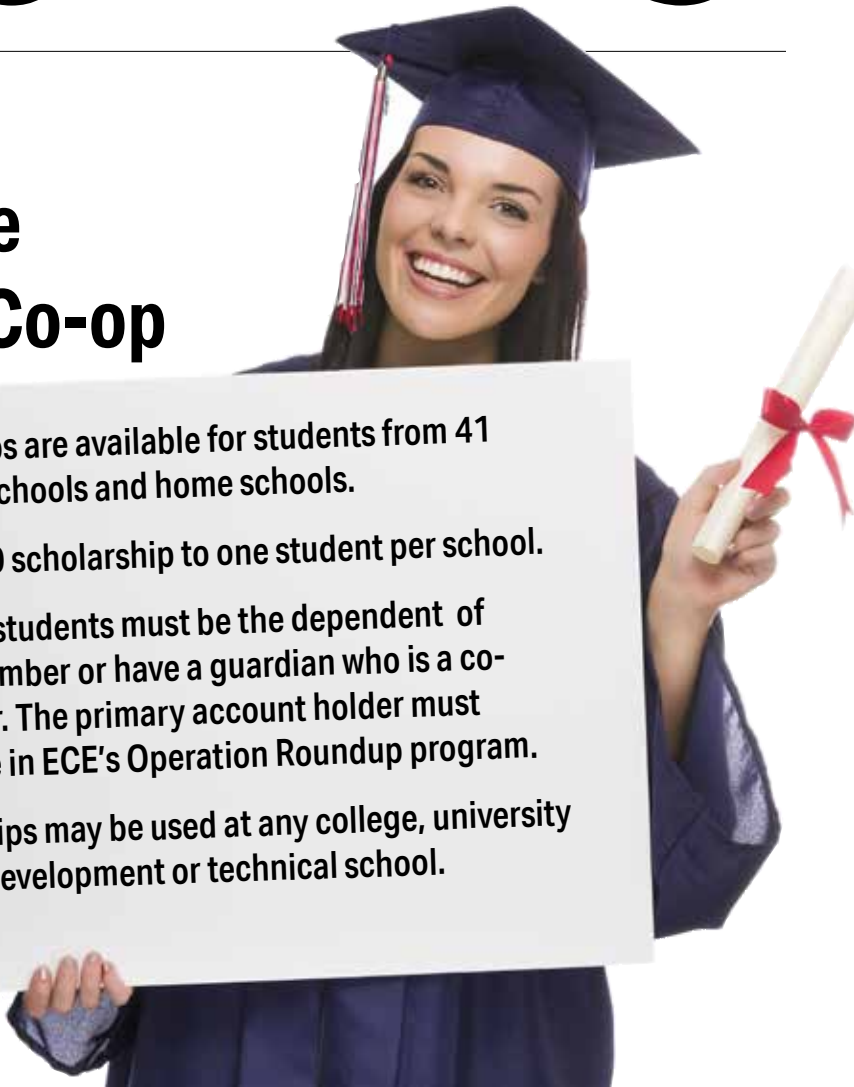
Operation Roundup paid only \$21,000 in scholarships in 2017 due to a lack of scholarship applicants. The lack of participation is worrisome to the co-op.

- Scholarships are available for students from 41 local high schools and home schools.
- One \$1,000 scholarship to one student per school.
- To qualify, students must be the dependent of a co-op member or have a guardian who is a co-op member. The primary account holder must participate in ECE's Operation Roundup program.
- Scholarships may be used at any college, university or career development or technical school.

"We hate to see this money left on the table because we believe there are students out there who could really use it," Moore says. "We are contacting high schools in our area and asking the teachers and administrators to please encourage their students to apply."

Moore also urges co-op members to help spread the word about the scholarships. Hurry, the deadline to submit entries is March 1, 2018.

Scholarship eligibility requirements and other details are available online at [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com), or call ECE at 918-756-0833.





THAT'S CONVENIENT

## Use SmartHub to Help You At Tax Time

It's the start of a new year, which means it's time to gather financial documents in preparation for tax season. Did you know that a record of your energy use is available with a few easy clicks?

Many East Central Electric members need end-of-year reports on the amount they paid for utilities. Instead of the hassle of calling the office to request the information and waiting for it to be compiled and mailed, you can find the information you're looking for on SmartHub. Just a few clicks and you're done!

If you don't have a SmartHub account, visit [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com) to register for an account on your desktop, or download the SmartHub app to your smartphone. Registering for an account takes less than three minutes.

Once you've logged on to SmartHub, it's easy to locate your payment history through the Billing and Payments tab. Please refer to our step-by-step instructions, above, or call East Central Electric at **918-756-0833**. Our representatives are happy to help you get registered on SmartHub.

### HOW TO FIND YOUR PAYMENT HISTORY

1. Open your SmartHub account from your desktop or the smartphone app.
2. Click on Billing and Payments.
3. Choose Payment History to see a list of all payments for the past year.
4. Right click to print the document or save it to print later.

SmartHub offers a variety of features for members to use free of charge. Report outages, pay bills, monitor your usage and more. You can even sign up for special alerts that will keep you informed during power outages. You'll like it—convenience guaranteed!

REVAMPED

## Welcome to the new *Country Living!*

You're not imagining things: Your electric cooperative newsletter looks different.

After several years of the same design, your co-op communications staff decided it was time to "reboot."

With new fonts and larger photos, we aim to make *Country Living* eye-catching and easy to read. We know our members are busy folks, so we strive to make the best use of our limited space and your limited time.

We hope you enjoy the new look. Please keep reading!

### ■ TELL US ABOUT IT

We appreciate suggestions or comments that will help us improve services for our members. Please give us a call at **918-756-0833**.

## \$5,000 REWARD for tips that help ECE bust copper thieves

East Central Electric is asking members to help halt the recent wave in copper crime. Individuals who provide tips or information leading to the arrest and conviction of copper thieves will receive a \$5,000 reward.

Copper theft affects every cooperative member. Copper criminals leave a trail of destruction in their wake that threatens the reliability of your electric service and creates serious public safety hazards. It also costs you and your electric co-op thousands of dollars in infrastructure repairs.

Please report information to your local sheriff. Tips may remain anonymous.



## The **great** thing *about* **generators...**

To start with, no more worrying.

If you belonged to East Central Electric Cooperative (ECE) in 2013, you will recall the discomfort caused when Mother Nature blasted our area with a heavy layer of ice. The storm caused serious damages to co-op infrastructure and left many members without power for days.

We can't predict when the next storm will strike, but it's safe to say, sooner or later, another one will. When that happens, a whole-home generator can get you through the loss of power with no loss in comfort.

ECE offers Guardian Series Generac home backup generators to members. Members who purchase a generator through ECE enjoy the peace of mind that comes with safe, professionally-installed backup power.

Generac detects power loss within seconds, and switches on and off automatically. Sleep through the night without interruption or travel without worrying about frozen pipes or spoiled food. Another plus: Generac runs on natural gas or liquid propane (LP) fuel, so there's no need to refuel.

To ride out the next storm in comfort, please contact your co-op for more details at **918-756-0833**. It's an investment you won't regret.

- Automatic operation.
- No need to refuel.
- Power flows directly to your home.
- 24-hour customer support.

To learn more about backup generators, please give ECE a call at **918-756-0833**.



### OUTAGE

#### QUICK TIP

Store a few milk jugs filled with water in your freezer. If you lose power during a storm, they will help your food stay cold longer. Also, avoid opening your fridge or freezer during an outage to keep cold air inside.

# operation round-up

MONTHLY UPDATE



Operation Roundup funds support local charitable organizations, civic groups, youth programs, community services, and needy families. For more information on this voluntary bill roundup program, please visit [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com).

Applications reviewed.....	943
Applications granted.....	647
Applications denied.....	282
Applications tabled.....	19
Scholarships awarded.....	\$190,000
Total Disbursements.....	\$1,533,871.61
Average member contribution.....	44¢

RECIPES



## Tender Italian Baked Chicken

### INGREDIENTS

- ¾ cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ¾ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¾ cup Italian seasoned bread crumbs
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. In a bowl, mix the mayonnaise, Parmesan cheese, and garlic powder. Place bread crumbs in a separate bowl. Dip chicken into the mayonnaise mixture, then into the bread crumbs to coat. Arrange coated chicken on a baking sheet.

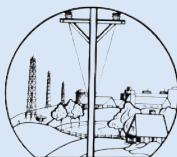
Bake 20 minutes in the preheated oven, or until chicken juices run clear and coating is golden brown.



## ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Don't place extension cords in high traffic areas, under carpets, or across walkways where they pose a potential tripping hazard.

SOURCE: ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL



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### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm.

### POWER OUTAGE HOT LINE

(918) 756-0833

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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*General Manager*

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Pay online at [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com) using SmartHub, or download the app.
- Pay by phone using VISA, Mastercard or Discover at **866-999-4584**. Available 24 hours a day. Convenience fee associated with payments.
- Pay with cash or credit/debit card at participating Moneygram or Pay Site locations. Convenience fee associated with payments.
- Pay using our drive-through window or lobby, Monday - Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm.
- Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account. Sign up online or download the ebill form for easy automatic payments at [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com).