

Currents

64 County Route 639, Sussex, NJ 07461 . p: 973.875.5101 . f: 973.875.4114

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www.sussexrec.com



YOUTH TOUR

At 7:30 am on Sunday, June 16, 2019, my wife Robin and I dropped off our oldest daughter at the Cooperative's office to join eight other students attending the 2019 National Youth Tour. For the first time in the over twenty-five years that I have worked here, I was experiencing Youth Tour from a new perspective: as a parent sending his daughter to join over 1,800 kids from 46 other states on a six-day

trip to Washington, D.C. To be honest, I was not worried about our NJ kids, I was worried for all the other ones!

This year, Sussex Rural Electric sent students from Vernon High School, High Point Regional High School, and Sussex Tech. Our group consisted of eight girls and one boy, and I'm happy to report – Trevor survived! The Cooperative's Director of Marketing & Member

By: Chris Reese, President & CEO
contacttheceo@sussexrec.com



Services, Claudia Raffay, and our IT Manager, John Crissey, served as chaperones and whisked the kids away in a rental van a little before 8:00 am to meet up with a coach bus in Gettysburg that contained some of the Pennsylvania co-ops' contingent.

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Youth Tour

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(One background note about Youth Tour: a few years ago, the Board of Directors adopted a policy that allows for SREC employees' children to go on Youth Tour, if they are a high school junior and want to go, and their inclusion does not count towards the long-standing policy of sending three eligible high school juniors to Youth Tour every year. This eliminated any conflicts of interest during the students' application process.)

Facetime calls, text messages, and Facebook posts kept us up to date on all the activities, and there were a lot of activities for the kids. One of the students even "vlogged" the week's happenings and I gained an additional, and different, perspective on the trip. "Vlog" is not a word I use often in this column. For those of you that aren't raising or around teenagers much – a "vlog" is like a video diary. You get to see the sights they are talking about, but usually the camera is pointed at themselves!

I have previously spoken with parents of Youth Tour kids and they have all said how great the trip was. But when you see, with your own eyes, nine kids get off a rental bus after the return trip home, acting more like a family than when they left, hugging each other and planning summer get-togethers, you realize that this was an amazing

opportunity for them. It's not just the historic sites they got to see, or the great museums they got to visit, or even the Congressman they got to meet and speak with...it was more than that. It was the opportunity for these kids to go away and be themselves, free from families and best friends and social cliques. They learned how to start a conversation, in person. They were able to meet kids from across the country, from different backgrounds and ways of life, and also from very similar ones, and strike up new friendships. When your child gets in the car after their return home and cannot stop talking about the trip - let's just say I am still waiting for the word "amazing" not to be used in every other sentence. I know this trip was worth the effort it takes by NRECA, PREA, and Sussex REC to make it happen for these students.

As Sussex Rural's CEO, I can tell you that Youth Tour is a great opportunity open to juniors in high school that live in our service territory. As father of a Youth Tour participant, I can assure you that this is an incredible experience for a child, and that some of the kids really do gain life-changing growth. I know that they have truly experienced something, as my daughter would say, "Amazing"!

Chris





TAKE YOUR SEAT AT THE TABLE

Become a part of our Member Advisory
Committee (MAC) to bring your voice
to the Cooperative

Apply today at www.sussexrec.com/mac

Member Advisory Committee (MAC)

As an electric cooperative, we value the opinions of our members. That is why Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative is now looking for volunteers to participate on our Member Advisory Committee (MAC).

MAC members act as sounding boards for changes in service processes and development of new programs. In addition, they learn more about the activities of Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative and then can share this information with other members. This allows MAC members to provide feedback to SREC about the needs and concerns of the Co-op's membership. This ongoing interaction helps to serve as a communication link between the members and the leadership of Sussex Rural Electric.

The MAC is made up of volunteer-members who represent the membership of the cooperative. Each of our three geographic districts are represented by three members. Meetings take place in the Fall and Spring. Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative's leadership attends and participates in each meeting.

To encourage member participation and ensure that a true cross-section of the membership is represented, members will sometimes rotate off the committee before being considered for another seat.

To ensure we obtain feedback from a diverse group of our membership, we ask that members interested in serving on the MAC complete a simple application. The Board of Directors will evaluate and approve the applications in order to obtain the best overall representation of our membership.

If you are interested in joining the Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative Member Advisory Committee please go to www.sussexrec.com/mac to fill out the application. New members will be announced prior to the next meeting of the committee which will likely be held in November, 2019.



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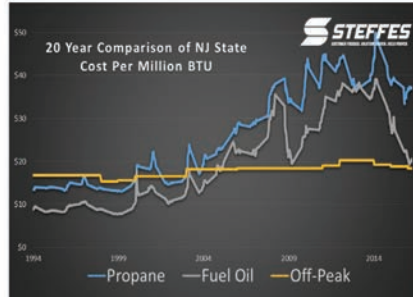


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For more information go to www.sussexrec.com or call 973.875.5101



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Routinely replace or clean your air conditioner's filter. Replacing a dirty, clogged filter can reduce your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent.

Source: energy.gov



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64 County Route 639 p: 973.875.5101
Sussex, NJ 07461 f: 973.875.4114
website: www.sussexrec.com
email: currents@sussexrec.com

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SAFETY NEAR SOLAR

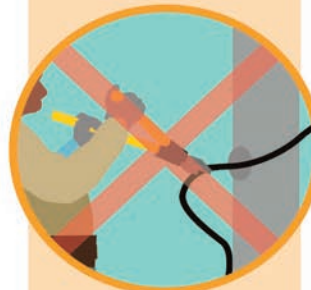
Like any other source of electricity, solar panels can pose potential hazards. Keep these safety tips in mind when you're near solar panels.



Stay at least 10 feet away from the installation.



Never walk on solar panels.



Never cut any wiring to the solar panels.



Never touch broken or damaged solar panels.