

## CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# The Enlightener

## CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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## Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Blake Wiswell
- ▶ Mary Zirkle
- ▶ Vanessa Acton
- ▶ Bill Baker
- ▶ Gale Thompson
- ▶ Tyler Woolfolk

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



## Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Willie Wiredhand Holiday Ornaments No Longer Available

The 2022 Willie Wiredhand commemorative holiday ornaments are no longer available. CMS will not have a drawing this year.

## Stay Safe During Severe Winter Weather

When severe winter weather hits, power outages can occur. Roadways can be dangerous. Do all you can to prepare your pantry, home and car for the next severe winter storm. Once you are ready, watch and listen for weather bulletins mentioning winter storms, blizzard warnings or windchill dangers.

### Supplies for the Storm

At home, have enough nonperishable food, water and medical supplies and medicines for 72 hours. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggest storing 1 gallon of water per person per day. Have cell phones and chargers, as well as backup charging sources, ready. Gather important documents and medical records. Protect your pets and make sure you have enough supplies for them too. Additional items to have ready: a first-aid kit, a flashlight and batteries, hand sanitizer, blankets and warm clothing.

### Readying the House

Weatherproof your home ahead of winter by caulking windows and doors and looking for other air leaks that need attention. Inspect chimney flues for wood stoves or wood-burning fireplaces. Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on each floor of your home. Protect pipes from freezing.

### Prepare Your Vehicle With an Emergency Kit

According to Consumer Reports, it can be cheaper to buy a prepared emergency kit than to purchase items individually. A kit typically includes battery booster cables, an ice scraper, a portable shovel, flashlights, a signaling cone, backup batteries for the flashlight, roadside triangles, a reflective vest, a basic first-aid kit (add in what is needed for individual needs) and a cell phone charger.

In addition, your car or truck should also be stocked with gloves, a blanket, a rain poncho, wipes, rags, boots and a hat. It cannot hurt to also have bottled water and nonperishable snacks in your vehicle in case you get stranded.

### Prepare Your Vehicle

Complete annual maintenance, test the car battery and cooling system, use winter tires and replace them if the tread is less than 2/32nd of an inch, check tire pressure and wiper blades, add wiper fluid rated for less than minus 30 degrees and keep the gas tank at least half full.

Know that when the power goes out, we work hard to restore it safely and efficiently.

For information about electrical safety or storm preparation, visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).



# 6 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## 2023 CMS Scholarships Available

The CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., awards six \$1,000 scholarships annually to eligible applicants.

### Purpose

To support development of effective leaders through educational opportunities.

### Objective

To provide financial assistance to make it possible for six high school graduates based upon scholastic and extracurricular achievements to continue their education.

### Scholarship Eligibility

Current high school seniors whose parents/guardians are members of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., are eligible to apply for these scholarships. Each applicant must intend to enroll as a full-time student in an accredited university or college, including junior, community, vocational or technical college. All applicants for the CMS Electric Scholarship shall be considered on the criteria below without regard to race, age, color, religion, gender, national origin or existence of physical handicap.

### Scholarship Criteria

Scholarship merit is based on three categories: scholastic achievement, school extracurricular activities and community activities.

### How to Apply

Students wishing to apply should contact the CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. office, or a CMS Board Trustee from within the district in which they reside to obtain application forms, or print the form from the CMS website, [www.cmselectric.com](http://www.cmselectric.com). Completed applications must be postmarked and/

or **RETURNED TO CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., BY FEB. 10, 2023.**

### MAIL APPLICATIONS TO:

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE  
CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**P.O. BOX 790**

**MEADE, KS 67864**

Questions about the scholarship program should be directed to Kirk A. Thompson, CMS general manager, at 620-873-2184 or 800-794-2353.

### Selection Procedure

Selection is made by the scholarship committee of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. Applicants must be willing to be interviewed by the committee, if necessary. Decisions made by this committee shall be final.

Runners-up will be selected in the event the recipient forfeits rights to the scholarship.

### Payment of Scholarships

The scholarship recipients shall provide proof of college enrollment satisfactory to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. The cooperative will then pay the institution. Should the recipient withdraw from college, payment of scholarship monies shall cease and reimbursement of unused monies shall be made to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.

### Conditions

In the event the scholarship recipient receives financial assistance from other sources, which would constitute a full scholarship, the recipient shall notify CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., and relinquish rights to the scholarship. The money shall then be awarded to the runner-up, provided that person continues to meet all criteria.



# Cold Weather Rule

Effective through March 1



From Nov. 15 through March 1, CMS Electric will provide you with all the normal notifications, but will not actually disconnect your electric service unless it is above 32 degrees on date of disconnection.

We are always willing to work with our members and encourage any members who are unable to pay on-time to make payment arrangements. Please contact our office for more information at 800-794-2353.

**The Cold Weather Rule helps existing consumer-members maintain electric services during the winter.**

## Statement of Non-Discrimination

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

## Your CMS Payment Options

CMS Electric has six convenient payment options for our members. All members receive a standard monthly bill for their electrical use. Bills are due and payable upon receipt. We realize one method of payment does not fit every member's needs, so we have several payment options available for your convenience. All our payment options are free.

### 1. Auto Payment/Bank Draft



Members have the option to have payments automatically withdrawn from their bank accounts or credit/debit cards. Sign-up is available through our online bill pay system or through the office. Auto payments are drawn automatically each month on the due date of the bill. A form is also available on our website [cmselectric.com](http://cmselectric.com).

### 4. Night Deposit Boxes



There are night deposit boxes located at either office in Meade or Coldwater. Payments dropped off after 4 p.m., Monday-Friday, will be posted the next business day. Please pay inside to avoid broken payment arrangements or disconnection.

### 2. SmartHub/Online Bill Pay



Online bill pay is also available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Click the “Pay Online” button on the left side of CMS Electric's website or follow [cmselectric.smarthub.coop/login.html](http://cmselectric.smarthub.coop/login.html). Members can also download the “Smart Hub” app from the Apple or Android marketplaces on any mobile device.

### 5. Mail\*



CMS Electric's monthly bill comes with a return envelope that you use to mail your check back to us at P.O. Box 790, Meade, KS 67864 or P.O. Box 738, Coldwater, KS 67029  
*\*Please allow additional time if using the postal service. Payments must be received in our office on or prior to due date. We DO NOT use the mailing post date for the payment date.*

### 3. CMS Electric Offices



You may pay by check, cash or credit/debit card at either office in Meade or Coldwater. Our offices are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday, except for select holidays.

### 6. IVR



CMS Electric has an automated pay-by-phone option. Members can use a check or credit/debit card by calling 888-395-5281.

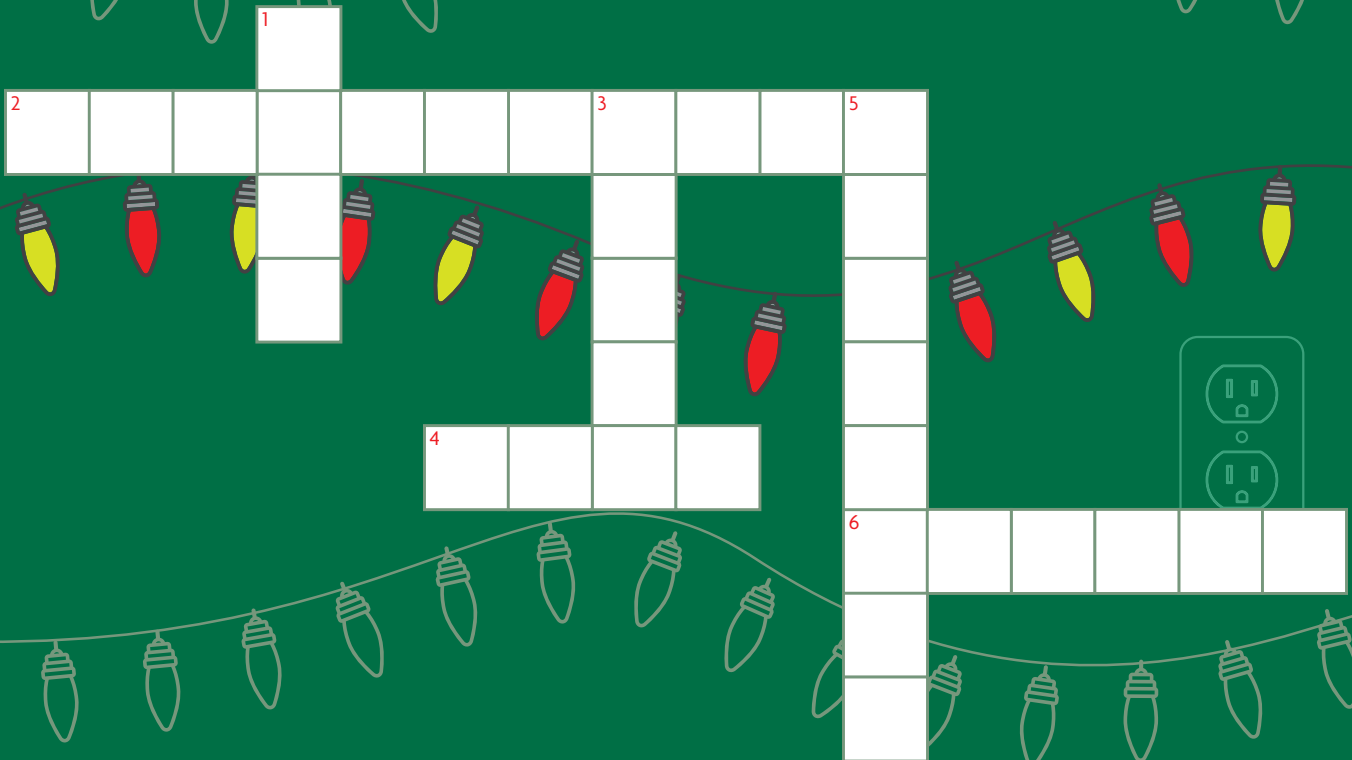
# HOLIDAY EFFICIENCY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The holiday season is a fun, festive time of year!  
It's also a time when we use more electricity.

Complete the crossword puzzle below to learn how you  
and your family can be more energy efficient this holiday season.



1. **DOWN:** Decorate your \_\_\_\_\_ with energy-saving LED lights.
2. **ACROSS:** Smart or programmable \_\_\_\_\_ can help control heating costs if you're traveling during the holiday season.
3. **DOWN:** Save energy by using a \_\_\_\_\_ to turn off holiday lights at night.
4. **ACROSS:** If you have a fireplace, ask an adult to close the damper when a \_\_\_\_\_ is not burning.
5. **DOWN:** Open blinds and curtains during the day to let natural \_\_\_\_\_ in to warm your home.
6. **ACROSS:** Lower the thermostat when your family has \_\_\_\_\_ visiting during the holidays.



## ANSWER KEY

- |                        |                 |                   |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. DOWN: Tree          | 3. DOWN: Timer  | 5. DOWN: Sunlight |
| 2. ACROSS: Thermostats | 4. ACROSS: Fire | 6. ACROSS: Guests |