

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# The Enlightener

**CMS ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

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Trustee

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Trustee

**CJ Skinner**  
Trustee

**LIGHTBULB WINNERS**

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Joe Luis Bonilla-Tellez
- ▶ John Thomas
- ▶ Yadira Ugarte
- ▶ Kory Unruh
- ▶ Dia Unruh
- ▶ Kent Woolfolk

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!

**NONDISCRIMINATION**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Trustee Positions Open for Election



CJ Skinner



Michael Johnson



Keith Randall

The Board of Trustees of the CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. announces the following trustee terms will expire in 2026, and their positions are open for election.

**DISTRICT 1, POSITION C**

▶ **CJ SKINNER**

**DISTRICT 2, POSITION C**

▶ **MICHAEL JOHNSON**

**DISTRICT 3, POSITION C**

▶ **KEITH RANDALL**

The board also announces that members wishing to serve on the board of trustees shall be nominated by presenting a petition to the cooperative office with the signatures of 15 valid members within the district they are to represent.

For more information, please call CMS 800-794-2353.

## STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

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 [www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), 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 Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

# 2026 CMS Scholarships AVAILABLE

APPLY  
BY  
FEB. 13

The CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. scholarships are six \$1,000 scholarships awarded 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 above criteria 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 who wish 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 visit [www.cmselectric.com](http://www.cmselectric.com). Completed applications must be postmarked and/or returned to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. **BY FEB. 13, 2026.**

Mail applications to:

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

# Whether Traveling or Snug at Home, Be Prepared for Winter

When Mother Nature strikes this winter, make sure you're ready. Hundreds of Americans are injured or killed in the winter months due to car accidents on slippery roads and in home fires caused by improper use of heaters. In addition, winter storms increase the risk of hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks due to overexertion.

Because wintertime brings its own set of challenges to staying safe, your local electric cooperative reminds you to prepare for extreme weather and to stay home during storms and their aftermath whenever possible.

## BE READY

Do all you can to prepare ahead of time for massive snowfall, blizzards or ice storms that could last for days at a time. Tune in to local radio or TV stations for the latest winter storm updates. In addition, use your cellphone to stay informed by signing up for weather alerts. Make sure you have a portable charger and extra batteries on hand. You might also want to have a battery-operated radio available (with extra batteries) as another way to listen for updates or instructions.

In preparing for a storm, pack an emergency kit with at least three days' worth of supplies to sustain you and your family. Include:

- ▶ Non-perishable food
- ▶ Plenty of drinking water
- ▶ First-aid kit.
- ▶ Flashlight with extra batteries
- ▶ Cash in case ATMs are unavailable, or credit/debit card systems are down
- ▶ Blankets and clothing, including sturdy shoes

And consider special needs or medical issues in your household; have an ample supply of all medications

Additional items to consider:

- ▶ Moist towelettes and hand sanitizer for personal hygiene
- ▶ Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- ▶ Medical supplies (hearing aids and batteries, glasses, contact lenses, etc.)

- ▶ Extra set of keys for your house and car
- ▶ Matches that are waterproof or in a waterproof container

## STAY INSIDE

Stay home during snow and ice storms and wait until roads are passable. This may sound obvious, but some people think whatever they have planned is too important to miss. Whatever the commitment, it's not worth getting into an accident or finding yourself stranded.

If you must travel and get caught in extreme conditions, do not leave your car to look for help. Your car should be equipped with several of the same emergency kit items during colder months, such as a first-aid kit, portable car charger and batteries, blankets, water, snack food, a windshield scraper, extra hats, coats and mittens or gloves; tire chains; canned and compressed air with sealant for emergency tire repair; booster cables; emergency flares; and road salt and sand for traction.

If you're at home and the power goes out, please know we will restore power as efficiently as possible without compromising safety. Do not turn on the stove for heat; it is not safe. Instead, use blankets, sleeping bags and warm winter coats. You can also use an up-to-code fireplace or portable heaters when used correctly.

When it comes to portable heaters, follow all instructions for use and do not:

- ▶ Place any clothing on or near a portable heater
- ▶ Put a portable heater up on the counter or other surface
- ▶ Leave it unattended
- ▶ Place on rugs or near papers or anything else that could ignite; make sure there is 3 feet of unobstructed area

When using a portable generator for power, never use it indoors and make sure it is not close to any windows, doorways or air-intake vents. Do not use it in an attached garage, even with the doors up. Never touch it with wet hands or use in areas with rain, snow, or standing water.

For additional safety tips, go to [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org).

## WINTER EMERGENCY KIT

### Top Must-Haves For Your Emergency Kit

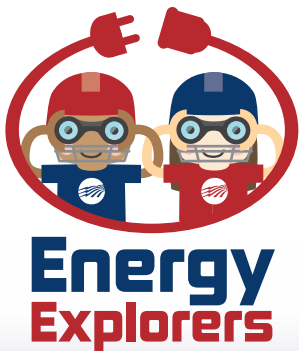
Be ready with at least three days of supplies and don't forget to stock your vehicles with a similar kit.

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| ▶ Battery-powered radio               | ▶ First-aid kit                             |
| ▶ Blankets, clothing and sturdy shoes | ▶ Medications, medical equipment            |
| ▶ Cash                                | ▶ Non-perishable food and manual can opener |
| ▶ Cellphone and charger, power bank   | ▶ Water: 1 gallon per person, per day       |
| ▶ Flashlight and batteries            |   |

### ADD TO YOUR VEHICLE KIT

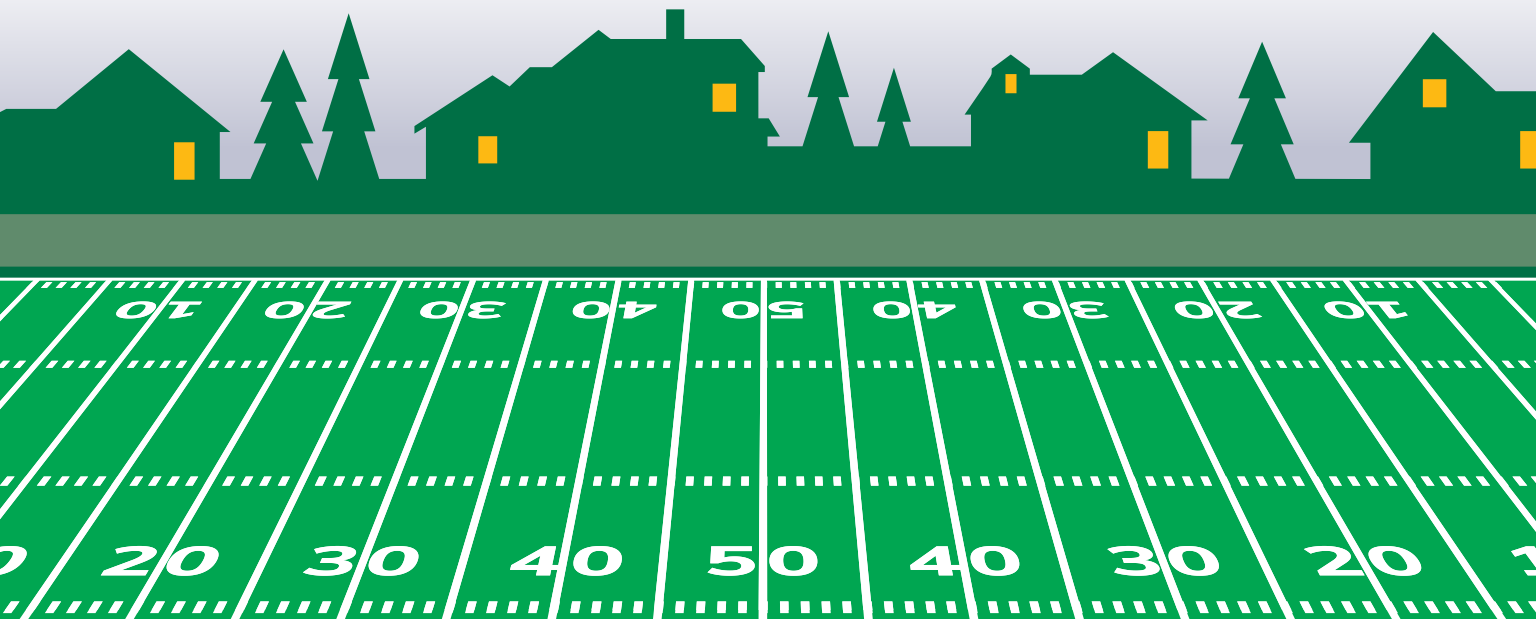
- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| ▶ Canned and compressed air with sealant for emergency tire repair | ▶ Emergency flares       |
| ▶ Extra coat, gloves and hat                                       | ▶ Jumper cables          |
|  | ▶ Sand bags or road salt |
|  | ▶ Windshield scraper     |





# Score Big with Energy Savings!

Every Super Bowl MVP makes big plays — and you can too! Use the clues below to fill in the blanks and learn how you can help save energy at home by making smart, efficient plays. Double check your work in the answer key.



1. Spend time outdoors or unplugged to reduce your \_\_\_\_\_ time and save energy.
2. Turn off the \_\_\_\_\_ while brushing your teeth.
3. When it's cold, wear an extra layer of \_\_\_\_\_ instead of turning up the thermostat.
4. Keep doors and \_\_\_\_\_ closed when your home's heating/cooling system is turned on.
5. Unplug smaller electronics like \_\_\_\_\_ when you're not using them.
6. Turn off \_\_\_\_\_ when you leave a room.

## Word Bank:

windows  
clothing  
water  
lights  
screen  
chargers

Answer Key: 1. screen 2. water 3. clothing 4. windows 5. chargers 6. lights