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## April is Lineman Appreciation Month

*It's your opportunity to Thank a Lineman!*



When the lights go out,  
it's their time to shine.

*Sumter Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



## Senal McCain and Richard Sims to represent Sumter EMC on the 2018 Washington Youth Tour

*Since 1981 Sumter EMC has been a proud sponsor of the Washington Youth Tour (WYT). The WYT — a week long, all-expense-paid trip to our nation's capital — is Georgia's oldest leadership program for teens. The program is designed to help students develop leadership skills and learn the history of the rural electrification program. This year Senal McCain and Richard Sims, juniors at Chattahoochee County High School, are Sumter EMC's 2018 WYT delegates.*



**Senal McCain**

Senal McCain is an honor student at Chattahoochee County High School (CCHS) and is also taking classes at Columbus Technical College. Her favorite subject is science, but her interests — from sports to theater, criminal justice to English

literature — are wide-ranging and eclectic. She competes on the Academic Decathlon team, which took third place in the 2018 statewide competition. She earned first place in Theatre Monologues at the Annual High School Academic Competition hosted by Andrew College by reciting Marc Antony's monologue from Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar.

Senal participates on the school's basketball, volleyball and rifle teams. In her role as a Student Ambassador, Senal helps register students and the public to vote. She is also the school journalist and has submitted articles to The Tri-County Journal newspaper. In her spare time, she loves to read, write, sing, dance and play basketball. Senal's college plans include earning a degree in biomedical engineering, with a minor in journalism.

Senal is the second of four children of Sumter EMC members, Dana and Michele McCain. Her family is active in The Bridge Church of Columbus.

Richard Sims is also an honor student at CCHS and a natural leader. He is the current ROTC Battalion Command Sergeant Major and serves as Chattahoochee County Chairman for Lt. Governor Casey Cagle's gubernatorial campaign. Richard



**Richard Sims**

is Vice President of the National Honor Society and has served as Class President for both his sophomore and junior years.

Richard is the 2017-2018 Academic Decathlon team captain. The team finished third in the 2018 statewide competition, but he won the 2018 Bronze Medalist Essay award. Richard also won first place in the 2016 Andrew College Math Competition and was awarded the 2016 JROTC Civitan Medal.

Richard is active in football, baseball and wrestling. He has been offensive captain of the varsity football team since 2016. In 2017, Richard was named 2nd Team All-Region Offensive Lineman.

Richard is the son of Sumter EMC members, Jim and Angela Sims, and brother to younger sister, Sarah. The family attends St. Paul First United Methodist Church in Columbus. His college plans include earning a political science degree and a minor in pre-law before enrolling in law school.

# Safety on the farm

Each year, serious accidents involving electricity occur on American farms. With one out of seven Georgians working in agriculture, forestry or a related sector, Sumter Electric Membership Corporation urges you to remember the following safety tips:

**Know the location of power lines**, and map out ways to avoid them when moving equipment. Any contact with these lines creates a path to the ground for electricity and carries the potential for a serious, even fatal, accident.

**Shuffle or Hop, Don't Step!**

- If the machinery you are operating contacts an energized line, move it away from the line to break contact. If this can't be done, stay on the machine.
- If there is an uncontrollable fire, jump off the machine keeping your feet together. Never contact the machine and the ground at the same time.
- Once clear of the machine, shuffle away, never allowing the heel of one foot to move beyond the toe of the other, or hop with both feet together to a minimum distance of 30-35 feet.

**Stay 10 feet away from power lines.** The Georgia High Voltage Safety Act requires that you not encroach on that space. Avoid building fencing under lines or storing equipment in the right-of-way.

**Be extra careful when moving cotton pickers, irrigation pipes and grain augers.** Many electric accidents on farms occur when machinery or materials are accidentally raised into power lines. The combination can be deadly.

**Never stack hay or pile grain near power lines.** Look above you for power lines before loading hay bales onto a truck with hay equipment.

**When picking fruit or pruning trees,** check for power lines running through or near

trees. Branches may have grown too close to a power line, and you or your tools or ladder can come into contact.

**Never spray water from hoses at power lines, or allow irrigation systems to spray lines.** The electricity can follow the water back to the source.

**Avoid moving large equipment alone.** Have someone watch out for you as you drive equipment to ensure that you stay clear of the power lines.

**Stay back 30-35 feet from any downed power line or exposed underground cable.** Walking over the area can cause a fatal shock. If you feel a tingling sensation, stop immediately, place your feet together and shuffle or hop out of the area without touching anything with your hands.

**Don't hang around operating equipment.** Stay at least 30 feet away from equipment operating near power lines, because if it contacts an energized line, the electricity will go to the ground.

**Rubber household or chemical gloves will not protect you** from the voltage carried by overhead lines.

**Wood can conduct electricity**, especially if wet!

**Don't become a victim.** Always call your local emergency services when someone is injured in an electrical accident. If they are still in contact with the electric source and you touch them, you could be seriously injured or killed. Keep everyone back a minimum distance of 30 feet, and have someone call for help immediately.

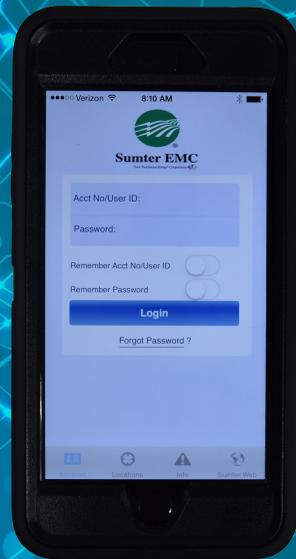


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## REBATES

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