



## BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our consumer-members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

**Vegetation management improves service reliability for you - our members!**



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

**April 8 is Lineman Appreciation Day**  
**It's your opportunity to Thank a Lineman!**



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



Sumter Electric Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# SEMCO NEWS

Official Member Newsletter

April 2019

## Anna Kate Ivey and Tyler Joyner to represent Sumter EMC on the 2019 Washington Youth Tour

*Sumter EMC is proud to continue its 38-year sponsorship of the Washington Youth Tour (WYT). The WYT is a week long, all-expense-paid trip to our nation's capital and is Georgia's oldest leadership program for teens. The Tour is designed to help students develop their leadership skills and learn the history of the rural electrification program. This year Anna Kate Ivey and Tyler Joyner, both juniors at Southland Academy, are Sumter EMC's 2019 WYT delegates.*



**Anna Kate Ivey**

Anna Kate Ivey is an honor student at Southland Academy. She cites math as her favorite academic subject, and her most inspiring teacher is her math teacher, Nichole Hoffman.

Anna Kate's true passion is music. Her future plans include pursuing a degree in music

education with the goal of becoming a band director or music teacher. She is a 4-year member and current Band Captain of the school's All-Select Honor Band and an All-Select Honor Chorus member for 2 years.

In addition to her music activities, Anna Kate participates on the school's soccer team and is a member of the Spanish club, the Math Team and the Trio for Literary Team, which took first place in the GISA Region Albany State Literary Competition; Anna Kate won second place in the competition in the girl's solo category. Her hobbies include playing the saxophone, piano or guitar and singing. She also enjoys drawing, painting and her church's Youth Group activities.

Anna Kate is the daughter of Sumter EMC members, Todd and Kasey Ivey, and has an older brother, Ellis. Her family attends Central Baptist Church.

Anna Kate is thankful to be attending the WYT and hopes to sharpen her leadership skills and gain new relationships that will help her achieve her music career goals.

Tyler Joyner, the son of Sumter EMC members, Jeremy and Laura Joyner, is also an honor student at Southland Academy. He is the current Vice President of the Student Government Association (SGA), and served as Treasurer and Secretary in his freshman and

sophomore years, respectively. In his role with the SGA he serves as the face of the student body and helps bring about change by working with school administrators to resolve student complaints.

When Tyler isn't fulfilling his duties for the SGA, he participates on the school's football team. Football is Tyler's favorite sport because the teamwork involved allows him to work and really strengthen his friendships with team mates. Another favorite activity for Tyler is reading. He credits his teacher, Mrs. Jeter, with sparking his love of reading during the summer before he entered the 7th grade when she had the class read interesting fiction novels. Tyler's future plans include attending a university of his choice within the state of Georgia and perhaps following in his father and grandfather's footsteps by pursing a degree in the medical field.

Tyler said he is honored to represent Sumter EMC on the WYT and looks forward to being among other teen leaders, improving his leadership skills and making new friends.



**Tyler Joyner**

# 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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Download our FREE mobile App and manage your account instantly whether you're at home or on the go!

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- Make payments
- Find payment locations
- View your bill and account balance
- Schedule alerts and reminders
- Receive push notifications



***It's simple. It's secure. And it's FREE!***

Just search for Sumter EMC in the Apple App Store and Google Play.

## REBATES

are available for members who replace a central system electric or gas furnace with an electric heat pump.



*Sumter EMC must inspect your existing heating system before any new work is done and again once all upgrades are complete.*

Call Sumter EMC today for details!

## IS PREPAY ELECTRIC SERVICE FOR YOU?

Take charge of your electric bills today with Sumter EMC's innovative Prepay Electric Service program for residential accounts. No more late fees, no more disconnect fees or reconnect fees. Convenient payment options and daily notifications keep you updated with your account balance and daily energy usage. Call Sumter EMC today for details.