

# T.I.P. Current Connection

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

February 2026

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Accepting Applications for 2026 Youth Tour Trip



For more than six decades, the @NRECAYouthTourDC has taken high school students from communities like ours to Washington, D.C., where they discover leadership, meet with elected officials and connect with other student leaders from across the country. This experience is more than a trip - it's a chance to Make Your Mark.

T.I.P. REC is looking for a high school sophomore, junior and senior (**whose parents or guardians are members of T.I.P. REC**) with a passion for government and public service to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital in June!

**For more details and to apply go to [tiprec.com/youth-tour](https://tiprec.com/youth-tour).**

**When is Youth Tour?** June 14-20, 2026 (orientation on the evening of June 14 in Des Moines, then fly out to D.C. on June 15)

**Who can apply?** Only children whose parents or guardians are members of T.I.P. REC are eligible to apply; the student must be a current sophomore, junior or senior. The application process consists of completing an application and answering a questionnaire.

**How to apply?** For more details and an application to apply go to [tiprec.com/youth-tour](https://tiprec.com/youth-tour). If you have any questions, please call our office at 800-934-7976.

**What is the cost?** There is **NO** cost to the student who is selected to go on the trip. All expenses are paid by T.I.P. REC.

**Deadline to apply: March 13, 2026.**

## Scholarships Available for Seniors



T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative is offering scholarships to recognize academic and community achievements made by young adults. These scholarships are

considered an investment in the economic future of rural areas.

T.I.P. REC is again offering three scholarship opportunities:

- One \$500 scholarship will be awarded to each school district in our service territory. These scholarship applicants must be graduating seniors whose parents/guardians are members of T.I.P. REC. Applicants must plan to enroll in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.
- One \$1,000 will be awarded to a graduating senior that is planning to enroll in an accredited Lineworker Program. The applicants parents/guardians do not have to be a member of T.I.P. REC but the applicant must attend a high school within our service territory.
- In addition to the above scholarships, a \$500 scholarship will be awarded to any T.I.P. REC intern who is planning to enroll in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school or accredited Lineworker Program.

All applicants must fill out a scholarship application and complete the scholarship submittal requirements listed on the application.

- Scholarships will be distributed to the student payable to the college they are attending and to the student.
- **The application deadline is April 10, 2026**, and the scholarships will be awarded in **May**.

You can find more information and the applications at [tiprec.com/scholarship-opportunities](https://tiprec.com/scholarship-opportunities) or contact your High School guidance counselor.

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## Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, USDA, its Mission Areas, agencies, staff, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Program information may be made available in language other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible Mission Area, agency, or staff office; the USDA TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY); or the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, *USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form*, which can be obtained online at <https://www.usda.gov/forms/electronic-forms>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of the alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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## Reliability Requires Investment

As your local power provider, T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative's mission has always been simple: keep the lights on and support the communities we serve. But behind every switch, every warm home and every business that opens its doors is a complex system that requires constant care. Reliable electricity doesn't happen by accident. It requires ongoing investment in our local grid—through system repairs, maintenance, upgrades and the integration of new technologies that help us operate smarter and more efficiently.

Much of the energy system we rely on today was built decades ago. While it continues to serve us well, age alone means that components must be repaired or replaced to maintain performance and safety. From poles and wires to transformers and substations, every part of the grid has a lifespan. Routine maintenance helps extend that lifespan, but eventually equipment must be updated to meet modern standards. These proactive investments reduce the likelihood of outages, shorten restoration times when disruptions do occur and create a stronger backbone for our growing community.

The demands on the electric grid are also evolving. Homes and businesses today use more electricity than ever, and that trend will only continue. Electric vehicles, advanced HVAC systems, smart appliances and new commercial facilities add load to the local distribution system. As these technologies take hold, the grid must be able to support increased demand while maintaining the reliability our members-owners expect. Strategic upgrades such as converting our substations from 34.5 to 69 KV are essential to ensuring we can meet these needs both today and in the decades ahead.

At the same time, new technologies are reshaping how we operate. Our smart meters allow us to detect problems faster and respond more effectively. This technology can isolate problems and provide real-time data that helps us to know if a meter does not have power, the extent of outages and where the cause of the outage may be located.

Implementing innovative technologies into the grid is not just a convenience - it is a necessity for ensuring reliability in an increasingly complex energy landscape.

While these improvements require thoughtful planning and financial investment, the return is significant. A stronger grid supports economic growth, improves service quality and enhances safety for our crews and communities. Most importantly, it ensures that the essential power you rely on is available whenever you need it.

Our commitment to reliability runs deeper than infrastructure alone. Annually, T.I.P. REC performs several maintenance programs to ensure our equipment

and lines are in top operating condition. It reflects our responsibility to our member-owners and communities we serve. Every upgrade, every repair and every technology we deploy is an investment in your daily life—from the comfort of your home to the success of local businesses and schools.

We know that powering our communities means preparing for the future, not just maintaining the present. By investing in our local grid today, we are building the foundation for a brighter, more resilient tomorrow.

## State Law Requires Notification of Alternate Energy Production



Several years ago, the Iowa Legislature approved a bill that requires notification to electric utilities prior to installing an alternate energy generator.

The notification requirement applies to any type of electric generating technology including:

- solar
- wind turbine
- waste management
- resource recovery
- refuse-derived fuel
- agricultural crops and residue

Under this legislation, the owner of an alternate energy production facility must provide **written** notification to their electric utility at least 30 days before construction or installation of the generator.

If you are considering installing an alternate energy system - please contact T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative at 800-934-7976. Let us provide information and assistance **BEFORE** making the decision to purchase any type of alternate energy system that requires interconnection with the electric grid.



## Richland Food Pantry Receives Operation Round-Up Donation



Pictured above left to right: Garry Oswalt, Richland Methodist Church Board Chairman, Anne Axmear, Director, Scott Long, CEO/General Manager of T.I.P. REC, Sherry Jipp, Richland Methodist Church Secretary and Food Pantry Coordinator, and Ronald Hoffman, Director.

Your Directors, Anne Axmear and Ronald Hoffman from District 4, decided to make their Operation Round-Up donation of \$300 to the Richland Food Pantry.

The funds that were donated by the Operation Round-Up Program will help provide canned and frozen food goods, laundry and dish soaps and toiletry items for families in need.

The Richland Food Pantry was established in 1995 and is located in the Richland Methodist Church at 106 W South St. in Richland, IA. Their hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30 - 11:30 am and Thursday evening 5:00 - 7:00 pm and they are on call if needed. It is managed by Sherry Jipp, Richland Methodist Church Secretary and Food Pantry Coordinator, along with one volunteer. Since last summer, they have helped approximately 265 families (760 individuals).

If anyone is interested in donating, the items they need are ketchup, mayo, soups, packaged dinners, laundry soap, dish soap, kleenex and men and women's toiletries.

The food pantry was so grateful for our donation. You can see that contributing to this program really helps many who are less fortunate.



## T.I.P. REC Cooperative Leadership in Iowa Program (CLIP) Graduate



T.I.P. REC Accountant, Jason Jack, (middle) is pictured above with Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) Board President, Jim Miller, (left) and IAEC Executive Vice President/General Manager, Leslie Kaufman, receiving his graduation award for completing the Cooperative Leadership in Iowa Program (CLIP) for emerging leaders.

Participants committed to a yearlong calendar of in-person, virtual and on-demand training sessions where they gained leadership skills and learned about various co-op roles. Congratulations, Jason!

## BGM Carolers Make our Holidays Merry and Bright



Although Christmas has come and gone, we would like to thank the BGM Elementary carolers for coming to our office and spreading some Christmas cheer in December.

Our employees AND since it happened to be board meeting day, our board members, got to enjoy seeing the students and listening to their wonderful carols. We appreciate them taking the time to stop by our office. Thanks again!

## Surveying

Brooklyn and Sigourney crews will continue their annual surveying schedule to ensure that all our lines and equipment are in top operating condition. In February, crews will be surveying on these substation areas:

Brooklyn  
Conroy  
Lancaster  
Marengo  
Parnell  
Tama  
What Cheer

Thank you for your cooperation during this maintenance program.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Mid-winter is a great time to ensure you're making the most of your home heating system. Replace or clean filters to keep your furnace or heat pump running efficiently.

Listen for strange noises and check for uneven heating - these signs indicate that the system may need servicing. Ensure vents and radiators aren't blocked by furniture or rugs as proper airflow helps your system work less and saves energy. A little maintenance along the way can prevent costly repairs and keep your home cozy through winter.

**NOTICE:** The Brooklyn office will be closed on Wednesday, February 11 from 7:00 am till Noon for an all-employee safety meeting.

Pay Your Bill by Check, Debit or Credit Card. Log on to [www.tiprec.com](http://www.tiprec.com) and Click on the blue Pay Now tab at the top or log into SmartHub or Call 833-619-0894.

### Non-Discrimination Statement

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

T.I.P. Current Connection is published monthly for members of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, 320 Industrial Drive, Brooklyn, Iowa 52211.