

Sun River Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone Numbers: 406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

Website: www.sunriverelectric.coop

After Hours & Weekend Dispatch:
406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

If calling from a local number or cell phone –
please use: 406-467-2526 or 406-467-2527

Be sure to check your breakers before reporting outages.

Ripples

OCTOBER 2026

Honoring Dolly Parton

IMAGINATION LIBRARY

SUN River Electric Cooperative (SREC) is proud to be a part of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library since 2020.

SREC has unclaimed capital credit checks each year, and after holding them for 5 years the funds may be used for educational purposes. In 2020, we partnered with the Fairfield Library to fund books for 11 counties within our service territory.

In 2023, the First Lady of Montana, Susan Gianforte, started a campaign to provide the books for every county in Montana. Through her foundation she funds most of the books, however, Sun River Electric and two other electric cooperatives in the state wanted to continue to be a part of the program, therefore, we continue to pay for half of the expense for the books in our counties.

Currently SREC has 390 kids receiving books, and 340 have graduated from the program.

Dolly Parton started the Imagination Library in 1995 in her hometown in Tennessee to honor her father, who couldn't read or write. Over the years



You can also register online by scanning this QR code.



month mailed directly to them. All you have to do is go to our website, www.sunriverelectric.coop and register.

Dolly recently passed away at the age of 80. This is an amazing legacy that she has left behind, and we will continue to support and honor her memory through our support of the Imagination Library Program. 

the program has expanded to reach more than 3 million kids. Children ages 0-5 are eligible to receive one book a

REMINDER:
Bills not paid by the 10th of the month will be charged a \$10 late fee.



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Apply now for the 2027 Youth Tour

It's that time of year — time to write an essay and apply for Youth Tour. This is a free opportunity to travel to our nation's capital and learn more about electric cooperatives!

Youth Tour Rules

The student must be a junior or senior in high school in the fall of 2027 (currently a sophomore or junior), and cannot be a prior winner of the Youth Tour.

The student and/or parent or guardian must be a member of Sun River Electric Cooperative.

The student must write a 500 – 1,000-word essay on the following topic: *If you could build a monument in Washington, D.C., who would you honor and why?*

Applications due in the SREC office, Wednesday, November 25, 2026.

What is Youth Tour

Youth Tour is more than a trip to the nation's capital to sightsee. It is a prestigious event in which thousands of high school juniors and seniors from across the nation join in Washington, D.C., to gain an understanding of our nation's history, and the freedom we enjoy.

The tour is designed to provide a better understanding of the value of rural electrification. It familiarizes them with the historic and political environment of our nation's capital through firsthand looks at monuments, historically significant national sites and government buildings. Youth Tour delegates will also visit with elected officials, giving them a better understanding of the federal government, the political process and democracy in general. 282477

Sun River Electric believes that by investing in today's youth, we are investing in our future. We know some of the brightest students reside right here in Montana, and we want to allow them to experience the past, present and future of our country. For many, it will inspire a future in government service or perhaps a career with cooperatives.

Every June, Washington, D.C., is invaded by the youth of America for the annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Possibly the best reason to compete for a spot on the Youth Tour is that it's 100 percent paid for by SREC!

If you are interested, more information can be found on the website, www.sunriverelectric.coop. Your school guidance counselor and English teacher also have the information. Or you can call or email Leanne at 406-467-2526 or leanne@sunriverelectric.coop. RM



2026 SREC Youth Tour Delegates Annie Diekhans and Bailey Anderson.

Home energy assistance available

THE State of Montana, through the Department of Public Health & Human Services, offers two programs aimed at helping low-income individuals reduce their heating costs. The programs run from October 1 through April 30 of each year. **LIHEAP** (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) helps with payment of the primary source of heat in the home. Both renters and homeowners may apply. To the right are the income limits, according to family size. Apply at the LIHEAP office for your county, also shown at right.

Weatherization Program

The **WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM** through LIHEAP helps participants improve the heating efficiency of their homes, thus reducing their energy consumption. Applications are ranked according to the degree of need and placed in "priority groups. "Special priority is given to older adults and disabled individuals. Once approved, an energy auditor will set a time to visit with you about the most cost-effective weatherization measures for your home within the dollar limits allowed.

Energy Share

Another organization, **ENERGY SHARE OF MONTANA**, is aimed at helping Montanans faced with emer-

LIHEAP INCOME GUIDELINE	
2026-2027 PROGRAM YEAR	
FAMILY SIZE	LIHEAP POVERTY LEVELS
1	\$33,719
2	\$44,095
3	\$54,470
4	\$64,846
5	\$75,221
6	\$85,596
7	\$87,542
8	\$89,487
9	\$91,432
10	\$100,620

<u>Opportunities, Inc</u> 905 1 st Ave N PO Box 2289 Great Falls MT 59403 (406) 761-0310 (800) 326-0955	Serves: Cascade Chouteau Glacier Toole Pondera Teton
<u>Rocky Mountain Development Council</u> 648 N Jackson PO Box 1717 Helena MT 59624 (406) 447-1625 (800) 356-6544	Serves: Broadwater Jefferson Lewis & Clark
<u>Blackfeet Reservation</u> Tribal Energy Assistance PO Box 850 Browning MT 59417 (406) 338-7977	

gencies meet their energy needs and move towards self-reliance. It is to be used only after an applicant has been considered for LIHEAP. There are no specific income limits; however, if a household has sufficient resources available to meet the needs, it will be ineligible for assistance. Energy Share is a grant program. Applicants must fill out an application available at Opportunities Inc; 905 1st Ave N; Great Falls

or receive one by mail by calling either 761-0310 or toll free 1-800-326-0955. Applications may also be available at your LIHEAP office or through your energy provider.

For more information about saving energy in your home, visit <https://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/energyassistance> and select "What Can I Do to Save Energy in My Home?" 

HIDDEN NUMBER

If you find your account number hidden in this issue, it is worth a \$50 credit on your next statement. There is one number hidden in every issue. Give us a call if you are the lucky consumer.

**406-467-2526 or
1-800-452-7516**

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