

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

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Students get behind-the-scenes look at electric co-op

Two area elementary students and their adult guests recently had the opportunity to participate in a special event at Firelands Electric as part of the cooperative's fourth annual Lunch with a Lineman Contest.

Open to students in kindergarten through fifth grade, the contest focuses on learning about electrical safety. Those who completed and submitted this year's home electrical safety checklist had their names entered into a drawing for a chance to spend a morning behind the scenes at the cooperative.

On July 22, winners Caleb Stang and Sadie Young toured the cooperative's facility in New London, getting an up-close look at bucket trucks, trying out linemen's safety gear and tools, watching a pole-climbing demonstration, and participating in a safety activity. Firelands Electric linemen Robert Shepherd, Zach Hart, Colt Cross, and Zach Collins, along with Energy Advisor Scott Carbary, answered questions from both students and their adult guests about their day-to-day work and the importance of using proper safety precautions around electricity.

Following the tour and demonstrations, students enjoyed a pizza lunch with the line crew and other co-op staff. Each student also went home with a gift bag filled with electrical safety activities and books, Firelands swag, and their own junior lineman hard hat.

"This event is a fun opportunity for students to get one-on-one time with the cooperative's line crews and other staff, while also learning about the prevention of electrical safety accidents," says Communications and Member Relations Specialist Tracy Gibb. "The number of contest entries has grown substantially over the past four years, and we hope to see that trend continue."

To view photos from Lunch with a Lineman, visit the co-op's photo gallery at www.flickr.com/photos/firelandsec/albums.

Firelands Electric, A Touchstone Energy Cooperative®, is a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative providing electric service to over 9,300 homes and businesses in rural areas of Ashland, Huron, Lorain, and Richland counties. For more information on the cooperative's community programs, visit www.firelandsec.com/community.

[PHOTOS ALSO ATTACHED]

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[TOP PHOTO]

Sadie Young and Caleb Young (front, l-r) recently took part in a behind-the-scenes tour of Firelands Electric as part of the cooperative's Lunch with a Lineman contest. The New London and Monroeville St. Joseph students are pictured with linemen (back, l-r) Colt Cross, Zach Hart, and Robert Shepherd.

[BOTTOM PHOTO]

Caleb Stang attempts to pick up a bolt and washer held by his father, Scott, while wearing linemen's protective gloves.



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