

SVEC Services and Community Involvement—

Many of SVEC's services and community involvement activities connect the co-op to its members by providing products, services and opportunities that improve their lives.

- The co-op's SVECares program puts approximately \$125,000 back into our communities each year to improve the quality of life in our service area. Since the program began in 2000, over \$3 million has been granted to deserving families and organizations.
- SVEC offers low-interest financing for the installation of heat pumps, suggestions for improving the energy efficiency of your home through the EnergyRight program, and a variety of payment plans enabling our members to better control and manage their energy use and money.
- SVEC's website and app keep members up-to-date and connected to their co-op. This technology allows them to do business with SVEC on their schedule, any time, anywhere.
- Over the years, SVEC Employees have supported organizations such as the Multi-County and Sequatchie County Cancer Support Networks, American Cancer Society and the Alzheimer's Association. Over \$150,000 has been raised for these and other worthy causes.
- The Co-op participates in County Fairs, Career Fairs, back-to-school events, etc. in each county when possible and conducts a Food Drive and Angel Tree program during the Thanksgiving/Christmas season to benefit those in need.

SVEC CHECKLIST FOR SUCCESS

Before you turn in your paper to your teacher read through it again and make sure you have included the following:

- ❑ The phrase, "energizing every moment" in the body of the story and have explained how the services provided by electric co-ops and their involvement in, and commitment to, the communities they serve impacts the lives of Tennesseans and the economy of our state. Also include how affordable, reliable energy from your co-op connects YOU with opportunities.
- ❑ An example of at least two of the following:
 - How electric co-ops connect communities with energy
 - How electric co-ops connect communities with education
 - How electric co-ops connect communities with broadband
 - How electric co-ops connect communities with economic development
- ❑ Details for each of these examples— not just a mention of a program or service—an explanation of how each of these examples of co-op connections energize your moments and bring opportunities to YOU and other co-op members.
- ❑ Include one or more of the Cooperative Principles - and give an ex-ample of how electric cooperatives fulfill that principle. They are listed in the Resource Booklet on pages 14 and 15. This information and much more can be found online at: youthtour.tnelectric.org.



SVEC's 2024 WYT participants: Michael Kirby III, Ella Boynton, Kasie Britton, Scarlett Mangrum, Hope Woodfin, Nova McGill, and Brylee Dishman

CO-OPS ENERGIZE

every moment



INFORMATION AND RESOURCES TO HELP WITH YOUR STORY

Starting your short story can be a bit overwhelming. Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC) hopes that these additional resources can help you write a winning short story.

While writing your story please feel free to give your co-op contact a call or send an email if you need clarification or additional information. Also visit www.svalleyec.com for more information about SVEC and the cooperative business model. Go to svalleyec.com/washington-dc-youth-tour/ for more story examples and resources.

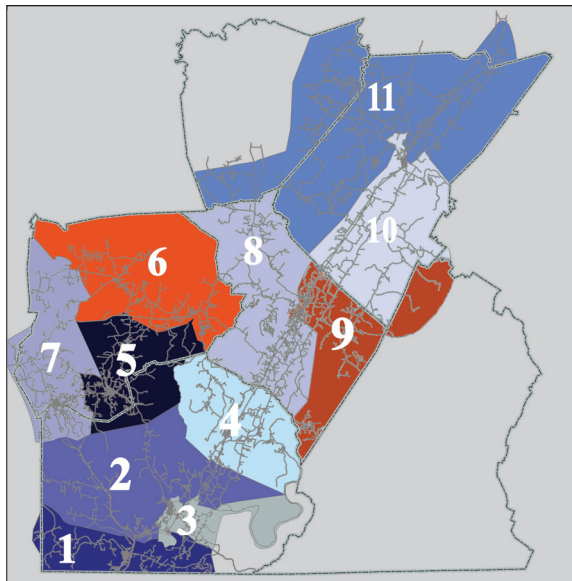


CO-OP CONTACT INFORMATION

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SVEC – YOUR locally owned and controlled connection to opportunities

- Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative is YOUR electric distribution utility, chartered under the laws of Tennessee as a rural cooperative to distribute electric energy to the people living in its service area.
- SVEC was incorporated on July 31, 1939. The Co-operative was formed to build and maintain a system to distribute electricity in Marion, Grundy, Sequatchie and Bledsoe counties.
- A rural electric cooperative is similar to any other cooperative in that it was organized by a group of people to perform a not-for-profit service for members of that group. SVEC provides electricity and the conveniences and improved quality of life that comes with it.
- SVEC is owned by the people of approximately 38,000 households and businesses in Marion, Grundy, Sequatchie, Bledsoe and portions of Van Buren and other adjoining counties who are member-owners of the cooperative.
- A person becomes a member by agreeing to buy electricity from SVEC and agreeing to comply with its rules and regulations. Until 1996 members were required to pay a \$5 membership fee as an investment in the cooperative.
- The people of this area are served by a co-op because no other company or organization would undertake the job due to the low population of the area. The for-profit companies didn't think they could make enough money to justify the investment.
- The co-op is **controlled by the members** through an elected Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is composed of 11 members - each is elected by and represents the members of the district where he/she lives. The board members are also members of the cooperative.
- The board is a policy-making and supervisory body for SVEC. It sees that the cooperative is run properly and in the best interest of all members and that the policies agreed upon are carried out. The board employs a President/CEO to oversee the cooperative's day-to-day operations.
- SVEC buys electricity from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) at wholesale rates and distributes it to SVEC members. TVA has no control over the cooperative other than requiring that it meet certain regulations and obligations of its power contract.



SVEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- District 1 Emily Layne
- District 2 Randy Gilliam
- District 3 Bobby Gravitt
- District 4 Roger Powell - Vice Chairman
- District 5 Michael Jordan - Chairman
- District 6 Judy Fults - Secretary/Treasurer
- District 7 Jerry Don Thomas
- District 8 Daniel Davenport
- District 9 Billy Gaston
- District 10 Charlie Young
- District 11 Travis Smith

SVEC: Connecting YOU with Opportunities

Energy

Providing our members with safe, reliable, affordable electric service is SVEC's primary goal. This service is necessary for our communities to grow, thrive and provide opportunities for a better life for the people of our service area. Our members rely on SVEC for this essential service as much today, if not more than they did in 1939.

Looking to the future, SVEC is exploring ways to invest in and expand our renewable energy sources now that TVA allows local power distributors to produce up to 5 percent of their energy from renewable sources such as solar arrays.

Broadband

Today, broadband internet service is fast becoming as important to communities and their residents as electricity was in the last century. To ensure that all of our members have access to this vital service SVEC is now offering gig-speed broadband service to all parts of our service area allowed by state law, which is only Marion County.

SVEConnect, SVEC's broadband company, connects SVEC members of all ages to a world of opportunities through its fiber optic network which makes high speed internet service available to all of our eligible members. With that service come opportunities to keep up with family members, pursue a college degree, learn a new skill, work, or start an online business. All of this from the comfort of home and without the disadvantages of travel time and expenses, an increased cost of living in a more urban area and decreased family time. Homework help and online classes that may not be available in rural schools are available for our youth as well.

Industrial and Economic Development

SVEC works closely with our local governments, businesses, industries, Chambers of Commerce, and economic development groups such as the South East Industrial Development Association (SEIDA) to promote the area and recruit new businesses and industry. Through these partnerships the cooper-

ative has assisted in obtaining grants and loans for a variety of economic development projects. Since 1990 approximately \$4 million in economic development loans have been awarded through SVEC's revolving loan program. This work in economic development provides opportunities for communities to grow and thrive and provide good quality of life for our members.

Educated and Engaged

One of the 7 Cooperative Principles is Education, Training and Information. SVEC strives to keep our members well informed of, and connected to, the many products and services available to them through their SVEC membership. With publications such as the monthly Tennessee Magazine and The Transmitter, the member newsletter enclosed with the monthly bill, SVEC members hear from their local electric cooperative every month.

SVEC's efforts to connect its members with opportunities through information don't stop there.

- SVEC uses social media to keep members engaged, connected and up to date on important co-op and community information and opportunities. Real-time information on power outages and storm restoration efforts, career opportunities, and promotion of community activities and tourism attractions can be found on the co-op's Facebook, and Instagram pages.

- SVEC is active in area school systems, connecting students with programs such as the Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest, 4-H Electric Camp and the Youth Leadership Summit. Energy efficiency, safety and basic electricity programs, and high voltage safety demonstrations are also available for local school and community events. These programs provide important information, offer opportunities for personal development and foster leadership skills. In conjunction with our financial partner Co-Bank, SVEC has awarded over \$80,000 in grants to teachers to fund innovative, "hands-on" projects through the "Bright Ideas" program, begun in 2018.