



KEFENOKE REMC

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Yes, She Can!

Night one and sparks were flying! From the side grinders, that is, being used by Needwood Middle School students Jordan, an eighth-grader, and Bailey, a sixth-grader. Both were participating in This Girl Can, an immersion program at Golden Isles College & Career Academy (GICCA) in Brunswick, Ga., introducing girls to careers in nontraditional and male-dominated fields. The program was supported by a grant from the Okefenoke REMC Foundation.

With gloves on and shields down, each student was working to smooth and polish a piece of metal integral to the final project of their respective learning pathways in engineering and welding. They were two of the 26 girls participating in the three-night program, choosing one of five pathways, with a female mentor standing alongside each of them.

“It is a very interesting program,” Jordan’s mom Angel adds. “Most girls don’t know about these career avenues. She learned a lot about engineering from the program last year and is excited to explore the welding pathway this year.”

Over in construction, Logan, a homeschool student, is getting ready to use the miter saw to make the first cut on a board she measured and marked to serve as the base of a tree project she is building.

Giving the girls and their mentors firsthand experience is really what the program is all about according to GICCA Foundation CEO/Workforce Strategy Leader Brian Weese, MBA.

“We’ve done a dozen sections of This Girl Can starting with just welding and engineering, but have grown to five pathways,



including automotive, aviation and construction,” he says.

“Angel Jackson, the lead mentor in our welding pathway, is a former This Girl Can participant,” Weese continues. “She came to do the automotive pathway, but we didn’t have enough girls register for that, so moved her to welding. She then enrolled in GICCA’s welding curriculum, earning several welding certificates and did work-based learning at R.G.

Grabber Steel Fabrication right here in Brunswick. They hired her full-time right out of high school.”

GICCA Principal Dr. Joseph Depenhart adds that nationwide there is an extreme shortage of workers in skilled trades which are mostly male dominated.

“When you are only drawing on half of the potential workforce by not recruiting women, that’s a problem,” he says. “Trades can be very lucrative careers, and this program exposes girls to those opportunities that can be found right here in our community.”

Read the full story online at oremc.com/yes-she-can.



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"OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE"

Ready, Set, Tee Off

It may only be January, but it's not too early to make plans to attend our 35th Annual OREMC Golf Tournament on Saturday, April 18.

Once again, The Lakes Course at Laura Walker State Park in Waycross, Ga., will be our host, and the Southeast Cancer Unit Inc. (SECU) will be the beneficiary. Registration opens Jan. 5 online at oremc.com/golf, or scan the QR Code to sign up.

Last year, OREMC donated a record \$28,000 to SECU from the tournament proceeds. Those funds provided financial assistance to cancer patients living in Brantley, Pierce and Ware counties in Georgia with medical expenses related to treatment. These include medications, supplies, prosthesis, professional

fees, nutritional supplements, durable medical equipment, wigs, gas cards and other services depending on individual patient needs.

The success of the OREMC Golf Tournament is dependent on sponsors, players and volunteers. It is a day of fun, food, fellowship and fundraising. Even if you are not a golfer but want to support the cause, you can purchase a Tribute/Memorial Sponsor sign (\$100 each) to honor someone in your life who has battled the disease. Simply complete the registration and payment online by selecting Tribute/Memorial Sponsor.



Generating Peace of Mind

Have you considered a generator as part of your storm preparedness plan? There are a number of considerations to be made before installing a whole-house backup generator or determining the right size portable generator to be used during power outages. In particular, you should know what you want to power to make sure you have enough generator capacity, as well as how to properly use the equipment.

OREMC has partnered with GRESCO to provide "one call does it all" services, from estimates to installation. Learn more online at oremc.com/generator-program.



John 11:25-26 ESV

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

“**Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts.**”

—Winston Churchill



YOUTH TOUR 2026

Make Your Mark

Every generation leaves behind a legacy—footprints that shape the future. The Washington Youth Tour is your chance to do the same. For more than 60 years, electric cooperatives have sent high school students to Washington, D.C., to discover their voice, step into history and begin writing the story only they can tell.

This once-in-a-lifetime experience isn't just about seeing the nation's capital. It's about preparing students to lead, grow and make their mark on the world. Don't just take our word for it. Check out what past delegates had to say by listening to our *Plugged In* podcast.

What's In It for Students?

Delegates from Okefenoke REMC will join more than 1,800 students



KATHRYN GREEN

from across the country in Washington, D.C., from June 12-19. During the trip, students will:

- Develop leadership skills through hands-on experiences and workshops.
- Strengthen their resumes with a nationally recognized program that stands out to colleges and employers.
- Connect with peers from 44 states, building friendships that last long after the trip.
- Meet with elected officials and learn how government impacts their communities.
- Experience history up close by visiting world-class museums and monuments.
- Learn about cooperatives and how they support rural communities across America.

The best part? All expenses—travel, lodging, meals and program costs—are covered by OREMC. The program is coordinated by our statewide association, Georgia EMC, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Don't Let This Opportunity Pass

All Youth Tour **applications must be received by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 14.** If you know a high school student who is ready to grow as a leader and take the next step in their journey, encourage them to apply today.



Applicants must be a junior in high school and live in one of the eight counties served by OREMC—Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Glynn, Ware and Wayne counties in Georgia, and Baker and Nassau counties in Florida.

Apply online today by visiting oremc.com/youth-tour. This is more than a trip—it's a chance to make your mark!



KATHRYN GREEN



Plugged In: WYT Is a Trip of a Lifetime

Marci and Emma Dillard both attended the Washington Youth Tour as OREMC delegates—but nearly 30 years apart. On this episode of our *Plugged In* podcast, the mother-daughter duo discuss how their Youth Tour experiences were similar, made an impression on them in the moment and how the memories shaped their future. It was based on Marci's experience that she encouraged her daughter to apply for the 2025 Youth Tour, and now, together, they encourage eligible students to apply and experience their own trip of a lifetime. Scan the QR Code to watch and listen on YouTube.

Working Together to Lower Demand

When outdoor temperatures drop, electricity use naturally rises. Colder weather drives us indoors, where we rely more heavily on home heating systems, more lighting and household appliances. Combine that with the fact that most people use electricity at the same times—typically in the mornings and early evenings—and the result is significant pressure on our electric grid.

OREMC works closely with Oglethorpe Power and Georgia Transmission, our local generation and transmission (G&T) cooperatives, to plan for these seasonal weather patterns and changes and ensure you have reliable power every day of the year. This partnership involves detailed resources and infrastructure planning to make certain electricity is available whenever you need it. However, it's important to remember that our local system is part of a much larger regional and national electric grid.

During the winter months, when homes and businesses across the country are using more electricity simultaneously, overall demand can

approach—or occasionally exceed—available supply. This is especially true during severe weather events, such as ice storms, sudden temperature drops or equipment malfunctions that reduce generation capacity.

To prepare for these scenarios and minimize risks, OREMC and our G&T partners take proactive measures to strengthen reliability year-round. These include routine system maintenance, investments in grid modernization and comprehensive disaster response planning.

These proactive steps are designed to ensure our portion of the grid remains resilient even under extreme conditions. Yet, maintaining a reliable electric system requires a collective effort, and every member plays an important role in lowering demand when the grid is under stress.

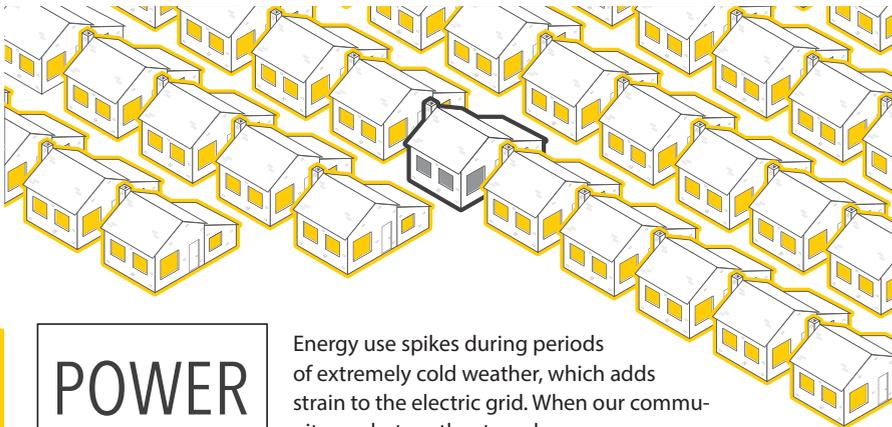
You can help by taking simple actions during periods of high electricity use, especially on the coldest days of winter:

- Lower your thermostat slightly. Even reducing the temperature by a few degrees can help.
- Delay using large appliances during peak hours, which are 2-7 p.m. Run

dishwashers, washing machines and dryers during off-peak hours, typically midday or late evening.

- Adjust your water heater. Setting it to 120 degrees and spacing out showers help conserve energy and hot water.
- Unplug unnecessary devices. Power used for lighting and electronics adds up and accounts for a significant portion of home energy use. Disconnect unused items to reduce energy waste.

Understanding how winter weather impacts electricity demand is key to maintaining system reliability. By practicing simple energy conservation habits at home, you not only save money on your monthly bill—you also help strengthen the resilience of the grid that powers our community. Together, we can ensure that our homes remain warm, our lights stay on and our local grid continues to serve us reliably throughout the season.

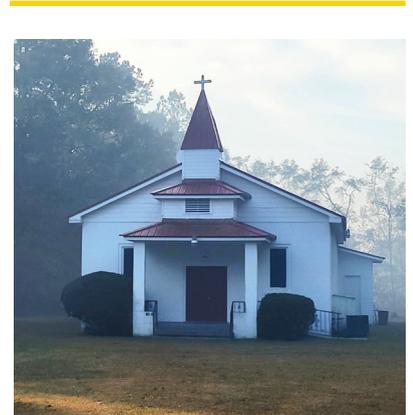


POWER UNDER PRESSURE

Four Ways to Ease Grid Strain This Winter

Energy use spikes during periods of extremely cold weather, which adds strain to the electric grid. When our community works together to reduce energy use, we can make a big impact in supporting reliability. Here are four simple ways you can help:

1. Lower your thermostat. Even a difference of a few degrees can help.
2. Delay using large appliances. Run them in the evenings or midday when demand is lower.
3. Lower your water heater to 120 degrees and avoid back-to-back showers.
4. Unplug unnecessary devices. Electronics and lighting add up. Unplug any unused items.



Church of the Month

Magnolia CME Church
4937 Highway 82
Brunswick, GA 31523

Pastor John E. LeSure

Sunday School, 10 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship, 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Prayer, 7 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study, 7 p.m.