



fairfield.coop

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 2500
Blythewood, SC 29016

BLYTHEWOOD OFFICE

701 Blythewood Road
Blythewood, SC 29016

WINNSBORO OFFICE

3129 U.S. Hwy. 321 North
Winnsboro, SC 29180

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Monday through Friday

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Toll Free: (800) 628-0336
Blythewood: (803) 754-0153
Winnsboro: (803) 635-4621
Camden and Lugoff: (803) 425-1059

POWER OUTAGE REPORTING ONLY

(800) 499-7862
Outages are handled by an automated outage reporting system. Please follow instructions. The system will automatically report the outage and a crew will be dispatched.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mitchell D. Rabon,
President, District 3
Timothy L. Hopkins
Vice President, District At Large
Robert Kenneth Miles,
Secretary, District 6
Cynthia Able, *District 2*
Eileen Donohue, *District 9*
Robert Entzminger, *District At Large*
Ronald D. Friday, *District 7*
William M. Good, *District 8*
Keith Lewis, *District 1*
Derial L. Ogburn, *District 5*
Peggy D. Swearingen, *District 4*



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Avoid the energy traffic jam

WHEN THE HEAT PEAKS on summer afternoons, so does the demand on our electric grid. Air conditioners run

longer. Refrigerators work harder. We come home at the end of the day and cook dinner, run the laundry, wash dishes and do other chores.

At Fairfield Electric Cooperative, our priority is delivering safe, reliable and affordable power whenever you need it. That job is hardest on summer afternoons—usually between 3–7 p.m.—when all the homes and businesses we serve simultaneously require more electricity. We call these our “peak hours.”

On the hottest days, these peaks can place significant strain on our grid, which impacts us all. Peaks can cause price spikes for the wholesale electricity we purchase and deliver to you. In the most extreme cases, which we have thankfully avoided in South Carolina thus far, demand peaks can combine with other challenges to cause energy shortages—leading to what’s commonly known as rolling blackouts.

There are two clear ways to ensure we have enough power for these peaks. One is difficult and expensive: adding to our energy supplies by building power plants or importing out-of-state power. The other is easy and actually saves you money: reducing energy demand during peak hours.

It might be helpful to think of the electric grid like a highway. During rush hour, traffic is heavy, congestion builds and everything slows down. But when smart commuters adjust their schedules or take alternate routes, they avoid the frustration of sitting in traffic, and they help ease the bottleneck. The same principle applies to energy.

If we can make small changes to our daily habits to reduce our energy use during peak hours, we can reduce grid strain and lower the energy costs we all

“As a member of Fairfield Electric, you’re part of a community working together to power our future.”

share. Here are a few ways you can help:

- ▶ Do the laundry and run your dishwasher in the morning before work or in the evening before bed.
 - ▶ Raise your thermostat by a few degrees and run fans, which are energy efficient, during peak hours. This will lighten the load of your air conditioning unit, your home’s most energy-intensive appliance.
- PRO TIP:** In addition to running ceiling and box fans, you can stay comfortable even at a higher thermostat setting by programming your thermostat to pre-cool your home ahead of peak hours.
- ▶ Consider using a slow cooker, air fryer or outdoor grill instead of the oven, which can heat up your home and make your AC unit work even harder.
 - ▶ Most of all, stagger your use of appliances during peak hours.

These actions are small on their own, but they add up when we all participate. As a member of Fairfield Electric, you’re part of a community working together to power our future. We all share the same goals: keeping the lights on at a reasonable price.

This summer, I encourage you to take a closer look at your daily routines, just as you would rethink your route to work during rush hour. A few easy adjustments can keep the grid running smoothly, keep you comfortable, and keep your power costs in check.

BRUCE G. BACON
Chief Executive Officer

A star-spangled experience

Local students take part in Washington Youth Tour

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

BY THE TIME Brooke Parker left Fort McHenry in Baltimore, the national anthem meant a little more.

“Before, I kind of said it in routine,” says Parker, a rising senior at Ridge View High School in Elgin. “But after seeing the story behind it and actually going to the fort, I’ll definitely think about the words and what they really mean to America.”

Parker was one of four students sponsored by Fairfield Electric Cooperative on Washington Youth Tour, an all-expenses-paid trip to the nation’s capital and surrounding landmarks. Joining her were twin brothers Kameron and Kaleb Haynie of Blythewood and Ajdrin “AJ” Mobley of Columbia, students at Westwood High School. The four were among 67 student delegates representing South Carolina’s electric cooperatives on the six-day experience in June.

The trip began with a visit to Fort McHenry, the site of the 1814 British bombardment that inspired Francis Scott Key to write “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Mobley said the visit to Fort McHenry drove home a sense of shared identity.

“No matter who they are, we came together under one thing,” he says.

From there, the students toured George Washington’s Mount Vernon, witnessed the Changing of the Guard at Arlington National Cemetery and walked the National Mall. They visited the Smithsonian museums, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

An evening cruise along the Potomac River allowed them to share dinner and dancing with other Washington Youth Tour delegates from across the country. The students also traded state pins as they met one another along their journey.

“This shared experience is making it unique, because everybody’s from different places, with different opinions,” says Kaleb Haynie. “Seeing all these things, talking about it, and getting different opinions and personalities has been a cool experience.”

The week also brought the students to Capitol Hill, where they visited the offices of U.S. Congressmen Joe Wilson and Ralph Norman and met U.S. Senators Tim Scott and Lindsey Graham on the Capitol steps.

Throughout the week, the students ran the Soda Pop Co-op, selling snacks and beverages to their fellow youth tourists. The exercise gave them a firsthand look at how the not-for-profit cooperative business model works.

The South Carolina Washington Youth



Fairfield Electric youth tourists Kaleb Haynie, AJ Mobley, Brooke Parker and Kameron Haynie visited Fort McHenry in Baltimore where they saw the Garrison flag raised and touched one of the mortar shells from the 1814 battle that inspired the national anthem.

JOSH P. CROTZER



After delivering a stump speech to his peers, Kameron Haynie was elected South Carolina’s Youth Leadership Council representative.

CANYON DURHAM

Tour delegation also put democracy in action, electing Kameron Haynie as their representative to serve on the Youth Leadership Council, a national electric cooperative ambassador program. Haynie will be collaborating with Fairfield Electric throughout the year and return to Washington in July for a week of leadership training and the opportunity to become the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s national youth spokesperson.

“I have leadership positions at my school, but nothing that extends past that,” says Kameron. “YLC was a perfect opportunity to expand my impact in a community that serves me.”