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## Altamaha EMC Selects 2023 Washington Youth Tour Delegates



Altamaha EMC is proud to announce that we will be sending three students to the Washington Youth Tour, an all-expenses-paid leadership experience sponsored by the EMCs in Georgia. This year, Bralie Carey from Vidalia High School, Raymond Florez from Toombs County High School, and Darrius Knight from East Laurens High School will be participating in the youth tour.

They will be among high school students from all over the United States at the weeklong leadership event set for June 15-22. As Georgia's oldest leadership program for teens, the Washington Youth Tour is designed to teach high school students about U.S. history, government, and careers in public service.

The Youth Tour is an opportunity for exceptional students to personally meet with members of Georgia's congressional delegation and visit the nation's capital.

**Bralie Carey** is the daughter of Susan Haley Carey. She is an honor student in the 11th grade at Vidalia High School where she participates in softball, HOSA, FBLA, and Beta Club. Bralie is the Treasurer for HOSA and the fundraising coordinator for FBLA. She is very involved in improving her local community through fundraising and volunteering for local charities and school events. Bralie plans to pursue a degree in the medical field after graduating.

**Raymond Florez** is the son of Bertha Florez. He is an honors/AP student in the 11th grade at Toombs County High School where he participates in FFA, Beta, FBLA, 4-H, Student Advisory Council, Tennis, and is also the school mascot. He has served in multiple leadership positions with FFA, Beta, and 4-H. He volunteers for the Vidalia Onion Festival, Red Cross blood drives, Southeastern Community Projects, and Teen Maze. Raymond plans to pursue a law degree after graduating.

**Darrius Knight** is the son of Brandy and Derrance Scott. He is an honors student in the 12th grade at East Laurens High School where he participates in the drama club and is the drum major for the marching band. He is also a NLC Youth Delegate, a member of the Young Democrats, and on the Dublin Youth Council where he serves as the Youth Mayor. Through his work on the youth council, he has been able to assist his community by conducting clothing and blanket drives. Darrius plans to pursue a career in politics after graduation.

The Washington Youth Tour begins in Atlanta, where 105 students representing EMCs across the state will get to know each other, learn about Georgia's 41 EMCs and the electric cooperative industry, and enjoy a kickoff banquet to honor the delegates.

Following the kickoff events in Atlanta the group then flies to D.C. to connect with students from across the country. Delegates will get the opportunity to visit and reflect on the many monuments and memorials honoring so many who have sacrificed for our nation and freedom. Delegates will also get to meet with Georgia's U.S. senators and representatives to discuss issues that are important back home.

*Congratulations to each of these delegates and thank you to all students who participated in the Youth Tour selection process. We look forward to this program each year and are excited to see where these young people go afterward.*

# Tree Trimming Improves Service for All

One of the things I love best about our community is the natural beauty that surrounds us. We are fortunate to have so many trees that offer beauty, shade, and a habitat for all sorts of birds and other wildlife. We know that you appreciate our community for many of the same reasons.

At Altamaha EMC, we strive to balance maintaining beautiful surroundings and ensuring a reliable power supply by keeping power lines clear in rights of way (ROW).

While we recognize and appreciate the beauty of trees, there are three main benefits to tree trimming in ROW areas. However, before touching on the main reasons, let me explain what a “right of way” is and how it may impact you. A right of way is the land we use to construct, maintain, replace, or repair underground and overhead power lines. Rights of way enable the co-op to provide clearance of trees and other obstructions that could hinder the power line installation, maintenance, or operation. ROW areas are typically on public lands or located near a business or home. Regardless, Altamaha EMC must be able to maintain the power lines above and below the ROW. The overall goal of our vegetation management program is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our community. Proactive vegetation management benefits co-op members in three tangible ways.

## Safety

First and foremost, we care about our members and put their safety and that of our lineworkers above all else. Overgrown vegetation and trees pose a risk to power lines. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members’ yards,

they can pose grave danger to families. If children can access those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor like a tree. A proactive approach also diminishes the chances of fallen branches or trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

## Reliability

Of course, one of the biggest benefits of a smart vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power outages. Generally speaking, healthy trees don’t fall on power lines, and clear lines don’t cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keeps lines clear to promote reliability.


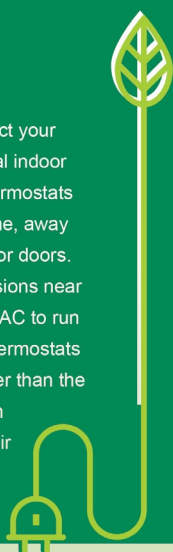
## Affordability

As you know, Altamaha EMC is a not-for-profit cooperative, and that means we strive to keep our costs in check in order to keep our rates affordable. This extends to our approach to vegetation management. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone.

Our community is a special place. We appreciate the beauty trees afford, but we also know our community depends on us to provide reliable energy. Through vegetation management, we are better able to keep the power lines clear, prepare for future weather events and secure the reliability of the grid.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system’s ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.



## HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

**All offices of Altamaha EMC will be closed **Monday, May 29th** in observance of Memorial Day.**

The drive-thru window at the Lyons office will remain open for the convenience of our members. In the event of a power outage or other emergency, standby personnel will be on duty. You can report power outages by calling us at (912) 526-8181 or 1 (800) 822-4563.



# Scholarships Awarded to Local Students

The Altamaha EMC Foundation has awarded 4 scholarships to area students. The scholarships are funded by contributions to Operation Round Up, a voluntary program in which Altamaha EMC members choose to have their bills rounded up to the next highest dollar with the change placed in a foundation.

Recipients must reside in a household served by Altamaha EMC. Each recipient will receive a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to further his or her education.

The 2023 scholarship winners are: Abbie MacKay Bishop of Robert Toombs Christian Academy, Jayson Brown of Swainsboro High School, Heath Johnson of David Emanuel Academy, and Martha Grace Woodward of Emanuel County Institute.



**Abbie Bishop** is a senior at Robert Toombs Christian Academy and plans to attend Kennesaw State University after graduation. She plans to major in Biology and then hopes to attend medical school to become a physician. Abbie is the daughter of Mark and Pamela Bishop.



**Jayson Brown** is a senior at Swainsboro High School and plans to attend Georgia Southern University after graduation. He plans to get his bachelor's in music education and then work towards his master's degree. Jayson is the son of Kenyatti Brown.



**Heath Johnson** is a senior at David Emanuel Academy and plans to attend Southeastern Technical College after graduation. He plans to major in Electrical Construction. Heath is the son of Keith and Tanya Johnson.



**Martha Grace Woodward** is a senior at Emanuel County Institute and plans to attend Augusta University after graduation. She plans to pursue her degree and then go to medical school in hopes of becoming a MD of Radiology. Martha is the daughter of Monica Woodward.

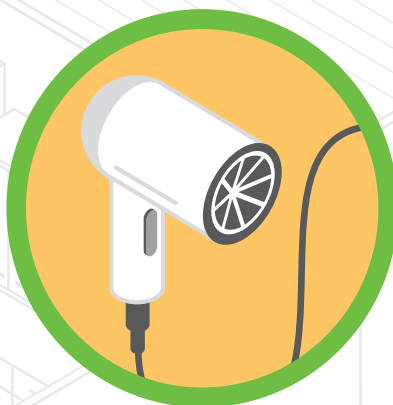


# A Safe, Happy House

Four Easy Ways to Boost Electrical Safety at Home

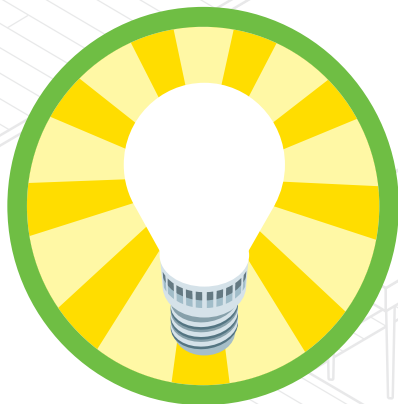
**DON'T**

place flammable items, like potholders, napkins or dish towels near the stove while cooking.



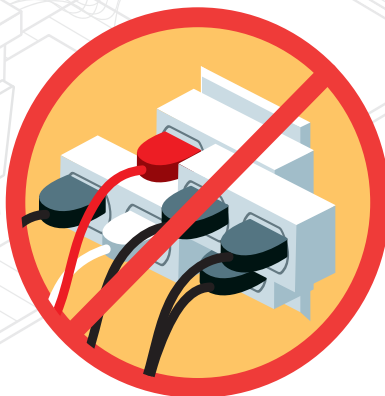
**DO**

keep electrical devices away from water to prevent electric shock.



**DO**

ensure you're using the correct wattage in all light fixtures.



**DON'T**

overload electrical outlets with more devices than the circuit can handle.

May is National Electrical Safety Month.



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# Member RECIPES

## Peach and Cucumber Salad

*Recipe courtesy of Georgia Grown*

### Ingredients

#### Spiced Pecans

2 cups pecan halves  
2 tablespoons butter, melted  
1 teaspoon sugar  
1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
Pinch cayenne pepper

#### Apple Cider Pepper Jelly Vinaigrette

3 tablespoons pepper jelly  
3 tablespoons apple cider vinegar  
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil  
Salt and pepper, to taste  
1 teaspoon fresh mint, finely minced

#### Salad

2 large peaches, cut in wedges, skin on  
1 cup English cucumber, cut in wedges  
1/2 cup ricotta  
2 teaspoons honey  
1/2 teaspoon lemon zest  
1 head butter lettuce or Bibb lettuce  
Finely minced fresh mint, for garnish



### Directions

**For pecans:** Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Spread pecan halves on baking sheet. Bake in preheated oven for 10 minutes. Place pecans in a bowl and set aside. In a small bowl, whisk together sugar and spices. Combine toasted pecan halves with melted butter. Sprinkle pecans evenly with spice mixture and gently stir to coat. Return pecans to oven and cook for an additional 15 minutes or until pecans have a toasted, nutty flavor. Remove from oven and let cool. Chop pecans coarsely. **For vinaigrette:** Whisk pepper jelly and vinegar together. Slowly whisk in olive oil. Season with salt and pepper then stir in mint. **For salad:** Lightly toss peaches and cucumbers with vinaigrette; set aside. In a separate bowl, mix ricotta with honey and lemon zest; set aside. Place a large dollop of ricotta mixture in the center of a large, flat serving dish. Use the back of a large spoon to spread toward the edges of the dish. Add more ricotta as needed. Arrange lettuce leaves on top, then spoon peach and cucumber mixture over. Sprinkle with spiced pecans and mint. Serves 4.

*For recipes from farms and producers across  
our state, visit [www.georgiagrown.com](http://www.georgiagrown.com).*