



## YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) sponsored 21 high school students, from 12 local high schools, to attend the 56th Annual Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) at UW–River Falls July 24–26. This three-day event is a unique opportunity for youth across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills while learning the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses.

**DAY 1** Following dorm check-in and roommate introductions, students played ice breaker games, learned "What Is A Cooperative?", and burned off energy during outdoor team-building activities. YLC provides an authentic college experience, which included dining in the cafeteria. Who said dessert should only be eaten once a day? The first night was capped off with guest speaker, Shelby Gruss.













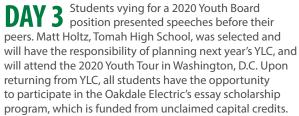
A busy second day began with Craig Hillier, motivational speaker and author, leading team-building activities and discussions 2 A busy second day began with Craig millier, mouvational speaker and dathor, leading second day began with Craig millier, mouvational speaker and dathor, leading second day began with Craig millier, mouvational speaker and dathor, leading second day began with Craig millier, mouvational speaker and dathor, leading second day began with Craig millier, mouvational speaker and dathor, leading second day began with Craig millier, mouvational speaker and dathor, leading second day began with Craig millier, mouvational speaker and dathor, leading second day began with Craig millier, mouvational speaker and dathor, leading second day began with Craig millier, mouvational speaker and dathor, leading second day began with Craig millier, mouvational speaker and dathor, leading second day began with Craig millier, mouvational speaker and dathor with the afternoon, followed by an evening etiquette dinner and hypnotist entertainment.

















Interested in attending next year's Youth Leadership Congress? Contact Deana Protz, dprotz@oakdalerec.com, to learn how you can take part in this cooperative tradition.



## FALL IS THE IDEAL TIME FOR PLANTING TREES

A freshly planted tree can put its energy into root growth, not foliage, and establish itself before winter. There are many environmental and beautification benefits to planting young trees. However, Oakdale Electric Cooperative wants to remind everyone to be aware of electrical hazards while planting. Always seek help from professionals when choosing and placing trees.

Trees that grow too close to electric lines can create shock and fire hazards as well as power outages. More importantly, children can become victims of electric shock when they climb trees that have grown too close to the power lines as well. Trees growing into power lines can also create electrical hazards for employees who might be trimming branches, hanging lights or otherwise working around them.

Take the time to research tree selections by consulting with Oakdale Electric Cooperative, a local arborist, or a tree nursery. These experts can provide assistance in designing a beautiful, shade-filled yard with trees appropriate for each area of the landscape. With their help, trees can provide economical cooling in the summer, and a wind-break for harsh winter winds.

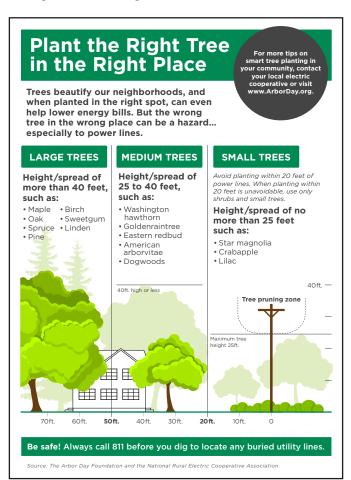
Choosing the right tree for the right place is crucial,



especially when it comes to power lines. Trees and wood in general can potentially conduct electricity and can create a safety hazard if grown close to electric lines. Power outages or momentary interruptions can occur when branches come into contact with overhead lines. Electrical arcing and sparking from a wire to a nearby branch can also cause fires.

If you have trees that appear to be growing into power lines, contact your local cooperative. Never try to prune them yourself. Oakdale Electric has skilled professionals trained to safely prune and trim trees for electric line clearance.

To avoid future electrical hazards, follow the guide to Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place:



## **Bruce Ardelt, General Manager**

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**Deana Protz, Editor** 



Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. 24-Hour Emergency Power Restoration: 800-927-6151 Toll-free Online Bill Payment 866-392-4307

Diggers Hotline: For underground cable locates and power line clearance information, call 800-242-8511.