

# Apply now for the electric cooperative youth tour!

Open to high school sophomores, juniors

Now's the time to act if you want to attend Walton EMC's 2015 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

We send four local high school sophomores or juniors, all-expense paid, to represent Walton EMC, learn valuable leadership skills and experience Atlanta and Washington, D.C.

You and peers from all across the country interact with our nation's leaders. Don't delay – apply now!

## TO QUALIFY:

- Be a high school sophomore or junior.
- Live or attend a school in WEMC's service area.
- Have your parent's permission to enter.
- Commit to making the trip on June 11–18 if you win.



## THREE WAYS TO GET AN ENTRY FORM:

- Go to [waltonemc.com](http://waltonemc.com)
- Email [jbroun@waltonemc.com](mailto:jbroun@waltonemc.com)
- Call 770.266.2572

## FOLLOW THESE STEPS

1. Complete and send the entry form, parent's authorization and student commitment. Walton EMC must receive this form by 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 6, 2015.
2. You'll get study material in the mail.
3. Study!
4. Take a written test on Monday, March 2, 2015 on the study material.
5. The eight contestants scoring the highest on the written test will advance to a short interview.
6. Judges choose four winners and two alternates.

Learn more – see the videos!  
[www.youtube.com/user/georgiaemcyouthtour](http://www.youtube.com/user/georgiaemcyouthtour)

"It was 109 students from all across Georgia who started out not knowing each other," said 2014 Youth Tour Delegate Chip Chambers. "We started with awkward handshakes and ended with tears and hugs. The people I got to know were all high-caliber." Chambers, second from left, is pictured with Walton EMC's other 2014 delegates, from left, Maddie Dawkins, Lana Goitia and Cindy Nguyen.



Walton EMC  
Customer-Owned Electric Power

# Realite

THE *Rundown* }

**inside:** ice storm prep **inside flap:** exploring our landmarks  
**on the back:** electric cooperative youth tour

The news  
you need to  
know in  
5 minutes!

JAN 2015

Walton EMC  
waltonemc.com

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## QUICK GUIDE



### IF YOUR POWER IS OUT

770.267.2505  
[waltonemc.com](http://waltonemc.com) > Report an Outage

### FIND US

**Phone** 770.267.2505

**In person** Monroe – 842 US Hwy. 78

Snellville – 3645 Lenora Church Rd.

Watkinsville – 2061-D Hog Mountain Rd.



**Web** [waltonemc.com](http://waltonemc.com)

**Facebook** [facebook.com/waltonemc](https://facebook.com/waltonemc)

**Twitter** [twitter.com/waltonemc](https://twitter.com/waltonemc)

**YouTube** [youtube.com/user/emctv](https://youtube.com/user/emctv)

### WHEN WE'RE AVAILABLE

Power Outages and Emergencies > 24/7

Call Center > M–F, 7A–7P

Business Offices > M–F, 8A–5P



### EMC LEADERS

**CEO** Ronnie Lee

**Sr. VP Corporate Services**

Russell DeLong

**Sr. VP Engineering & Operations** Ron Marshall

**Sr. VP Power Supply** Robert Rentfrow

**Sr. VP Finance** Marsha Shumate

**Board Chair** Dan Chelko

**Board Vice Chair** Michael Lowder

**Board Sec./Treas.** Tommy Adcock

**Board Members** Johnny Allgood, Warren Few,  
Mary Ann Hartman, Sam Simonton, Jim Whitley,  
Bobby Williams

**Comm. Coordinator** Greg Brooks, MCC, CCC

**Comm. Representative** Savannah Chandler, MCC

**Design by** mPrint Design Studio

### NEED NATURAL GAS SERVICE?

770.GAS.HEAT > [waltonemcgas.com](http://waltonemcgas.com)



### NEED SECURITY SERVICE?

770.963.0305 > [emcsecurity.com](http://emcsecurity.com)



## Early arrival of ARCTIC AIR Pushes up energy use, electric bills

You've probably noticed your electric bills have been a little higher this winter. There's a good reason.

Considering this season's temperatures, winter arrived about two months early. It all started when the Polar vortex, a large cold air pocket that typically sits over the North Pole, was pushed farther south than normal during November. Record lows resulted and the month required 40 percent more heating than normal.

Remember that your electric bill actually reflects what happened several weeks ago. Your bill is calculated for the preceding 30 days and then it takes a few more days for processing, printing and delivery.



Use a programmable thermostat to turn down the heating system at night and when you're away.

### TAKE STEPS TO KEEP WINTER HEATING BILLS IN CHECK!

- Wear adequate clothing when you're indoors. Put socks on bare feet. Wear long-sleeved shirts.
- Make sure insulation and weather stripping are adequate. Check our home energy audit video at [bit.ly/wemc\\_audit](http://bit.ly/wemc_audit) for advice.
- Open window coverings during the day so the sun shines in. Close them at night to retain heat.
- Make sure your fireplace damper is closed when not in use. Consider an inflatable fireplace draft stopper.
- Sign up for levelized billing to trim the peaks of your electric bill.

Walton EMC is ranked "Highest in Customer Satisfaction  
among Midsize Utilities in the South" –J.D. Power



Walton EMC received the highest numerical score among midsize utilities in the South in the proprietary J.D. Power 2014 Electric Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study<sup>SM</sup>. Study based on 104,460 online interviews ranking 30 providers in the South (AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NM, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA). Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed in July 2013–May 2014. Your experiences may vary. Visit [jdpower.com](http://jdpower.com).





Take a look around the 10 counties in your co-op's service area and you'll find some interesting, beautiful, historic and just plain cool spots.

How well do you know Walton EMC's service territory? Some of the locations we choose may be hard to identify; some may be easy. But all are worth knowing about.

Guess the location of this scene found somewhere within the 10 counties of Walton EMC's service territory and you could win a prize. We'll draw from the winners of all correct guesses for a \$25 gift card.

This bell rang to signal an unpleasant task.

### Email your guess

to [landmarkscontest@waltonemc.com](mailto:landmarkscontest@waltonemc.com) with the subject line "JANUARY LANDMARKS CONTEST" no later than Feb. 5. Entries that do not follow these guidelines will be disqualified.

**LAST MONTH'S LANDMARK:** Bostwick is a city in Morgan County north of Madison on Highway 83 that was incorporated in 1902. It has Northeast Georgia's only working cotton gin and hosts the Bostwick Cotton Gin Festival on the first Saturday in November.

**OCT. WINNER:** Lydia Sterns of Bogart.

©2014. Walton EMC is a customer-owned power company. That means our cooperative focuses on service, not profit. We serve more than 120,000 accounts in Athens-Clarke, Barrow, DeKalb, Greene, Gwinnett, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Rockdale and Walton Counties. Our subsidiaries supply natural gas and security services.

# get prepared! IT'S PRIME TIME FOR ICE STORMS

Remember last February? We didn't just dodge a bullet; we dodged a cannonball.

Walton EMC plans for disasters and maintains power line right-of-way all year long. But if we get hit like areas to our south did last year – where the ice buildup measured in inches – multi-day outages are possible.

If you haven't already, prepare now just in case Mother Nature decides to cast her icy sheen over trees and power lines in our area.

## PAY ATTENTION TO THESE AREAS:

### light

- Use flashlights and battery-powered lanterns. LED models conserve batteries.
- Have extra batteries.
- Avoid flames for light sources.

### water

(if you depend on a well)

- Fill tubs for household use.
- Fill pitchers and jars for drinking.

### food

- Stock up on non-perishable foods that don't require cooking.
- Have a manual can opener.
- Don't use charcoal indoors.



### medical

- Have a first aid kit.
- Have a several days' supply of prescriptions.
- Make contingency plans for patients who depend on electricity for medical devices. This may include moving the patient to another location.

### generator

- Operate well away from house and garage to avoid carbon monoxide.
- Use proper connections to your home's electric system.

### information

- Get a battery-powered radio.
- Get a car-powered or battery-powered charger for your mobile phone.
- Log on to [waltonemc.com](http://waltonemc.com) to report outages and for updates.

## Walton EMC employees earn safety award



For the 16th consecutive time, Walton EMC employees have been honored for maintaining an outstanding safety record and safety programs for a three-year period. The co-op is one of six in the state to receive a 2014 Safety Accreditation Award presented by the Electric Cooperative Safety Accreditation Program of Georgia.

Earning the award reaffirms the culture of safety at Walton EMC, says Larry Thompson, the electric cooperative's loss control director.

Walton EMC Loss Control Director Larry Thompson, left, and Line Superintendent David Fitzpatrick perform a spot inspection of a rubber power line insulator in preparation for safety accreditation. All rubber safety equipment is tested on a regular schedule to ensure its insulating properties are still intact.

"This award acknowledges the commitment Walton EMC employees make to safety," he says. "We live it, we breathe it and we practice it day in and day out to better serve our customer-owners and co-workers."

To earn accreditation, Walton EMC employees completed a rigorous inspection process. This included a multi-day, on-site visit by inspectors who evaluated employees' adherence to stringent safety regulations from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The inspection process also includes evaluation of public rights of way and utility poles as well as overhead and underground wiring to ensure the safety of the general public.

## Walton EMC designated Weather-Ready Nation™ Ambassador

Because of its commitment to preparing the community for extreme weather, Walton EMC has been designated a Weather-Ready Nation™ Ambassador by the National Weather Service.

WRN Ambassadors join with government agencies, emergency managers, the private sector and others to achieve the goal of saving lives and minimizing the impact of extreme weather on daily life.



Check [waltonemc.com](http://waltonemc.com) for information and resources on preparing for power outages caused by extreme weather events like ice storms, tornadoes and tropical storms.