

From our co-op family to yours, wishing you a wonderful holiday and a joyous new year.

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative will be closed
Dec. 24 for Christmas and Dec. 31 for New Year's Eve.



DECEMBER 2021

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Northern Plains announces 2022 scholarship

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative believes strongly in the future of area students and takes pride in helping develop future leaders. Together with Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC), we are offering a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2022-23 school year.

BEPC is a consumer-owned-and-controlled regional cooperative responsible for supplying wholesale electric power to nine Midwestern states. Each of the 141 electric cooperatives that make up BEPC, including Northern Plains Electric Cooperative, receives \$1,000 from BEPC to award a scholarship to a qualifying dependent of a Northern Plains Electric Cooperative member, who will be enrolled as a college freshman or college sophomore for the upcoming school year.

The scholarship program, which is in its 31st year, recognizes and encourages the academic achievements of students in the region. It also serves as an investment in the economic future of rural areas.

Who is eligible?

To qualify, an applicant's parent(s) or guardian(s) must be members of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative. Applicants must be high school seniors or college freshmen enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocation/technical school in the fall of 2022.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic record; potential to succeed; leadership and participation in school and community activities; honors; work experience; a statement of education and career goals; an outside appraisal; and a written essay.

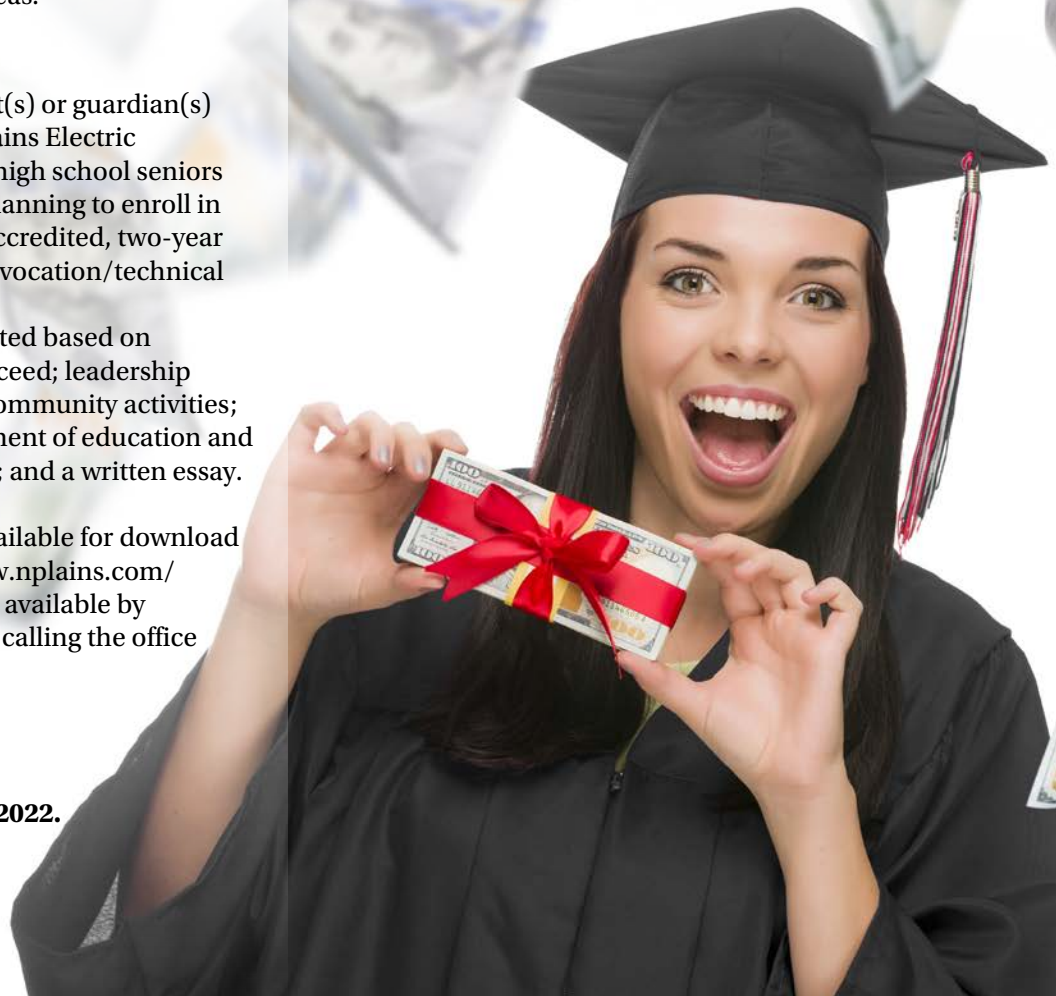
How do I apply?

Scholarship applications are available for download on the cooperative's website, www.nplains.com/scholarship. Applications are also available by emailing justask@nplains.com or calling the office at 800-882-2500.

Deadline

Scholarship applications must be postmarked by Jan. 31, 2022.

**Submit applications to:
Northern Plains Electric
Cooperative
Attn: Brittnee Wilson
P.O. Box 608
Cando, ND 58324**





Energy-saving holiday decor tips

Whether you've already decked your halls or you're just getting started, there's still time to incorporate energy savings into your holiday decor planning.

If you haven't strung your twinkle lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights and they can last 40 holiday seasons. They're also safer, because they're made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them more resistant to breaking – and they're cool to the touch, so no burnt fingers!

If you missed Santa's memo about energy-saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is a programmable light timer. Most models cost between \$10 to \$25 and can be purchased at a local hardware store. With a light timer, you can easily program when

you want your holiday lights turned on and off, which will save you time, money and energy. If you're using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it's weatherproof and intended for outdoor use.

If Clark Griswold's decor style is a bit much for your taste, consider a more natural approach by installing solar-powered spotlights to illuminate a holiday wreath or garland. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be able to purchase a quality set of four for about \$30 – and because they run on natural energy from the sun, there's no additional cost to your energy bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are plenty of ways to save energy throughout the season. Visit Northern Plains Electric Cooperative's website for additional energy-saving tips. ■

LOCAL FIRST

Shop your neighborhood businesses

BY BRITTNEE WILSON



North Dakotans have always been willing to support their neighbor. In the late 1930s and early 1940s, most rural people in North Dakota and the rest of the country lived without electricity. Power companies were convinced they couldn't make any money by serving the rural countryside, so they declined to run power lines into the country.

In response, neighbors banded together to help themselves by forming electric cooperatives. With the help of government loans through the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), electric cooperatives helped light the countryside.

Today, the nation is facing different types of problems. It is no secret the pandemic has created some economic challenges and small businesses have taken a hit. With prices for materials and goods skyrocketing, the shortage in the supply chain and a labor shortage, now more than ever, small businesses need your support.

There is something you can do to help – buy local.

When you consider how many small businesses surround you in your everyday lives, it is impressive to think about the amount of time, commitment and labor these hardworking individuals contribute to make their businesses both come to life and stay alive. Yet,

many Americans frequent chain stores or mega online retailers without considering their local merchant or other small business options first.

What happens when you shop local?

More of your money will be kept in your local economy. When you buy locally, the small business where you're making your purchase certainly benefits, but the benefits keep growing. Spending locally ensures your sales taxes are reinvested where they belong – in your community! These taxes are used to boost the community's libraries, schools and infrastructure. Each dollar spent at local independent businesses returns three times more money to the local economy than shopping at a chain or mega online retailer.

Shopping local creates local jobs. A small business that does well is likely to hire more people, who then spend more money in the community. When you shop locally, you help create jobs for teachers, police officers and many other essential professions.

Local business owners are more likely to give back to your community. Local business owners know you, and you know them. Studies have shown that local businesses donate to community causes more than twice the rate of chain stores. Next time you are at a

community event, look around and see if you can spot a local business's logo advertisement.

It makes your community a destination. The more interesting and unique your community is, the more it will attract new neighbors, visitors and guests. This benefits everyone!

Ways to support small business

Supporting your local businesses doesn't necessarily mean you have to spend money; you can make a huge impact just by taking a couple minutes out of your day to share and engage with your favorite business's social media. Go a step further and write a positive review for the business on Google, Yelp or Facebook.

If you find yourself with the means to make a purchase, take a photo and share it. And lastly, buy a gift card and gift it! It's that simple. All these options could make a chain reaction, bringing potentially new customers to the area and bettering your community.

When engaging on social media use #ShopLocalND

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative's Love Local giveaway contest winners

The following members won a \$50 gift card to the listed local business:

Patricia Two Hearts, Fort Totten..... Spirit Lake Grocery, St. Michael
 Cindy Oakland, Cando..... Neumann Drug, Cando
 Bernice Selensky, Rugby Dakota Farms Restaurant, Rugby
 Robert Plemel Jr., Cando Cando Home & Hardware, Cando
 Darrell Hovland, Penn Cenex, Devils Lake
 Ilenne Albin, Jamestown..... Dakota Store, Jamestown
 Steve Flick, Chaseley Rosa's Pizza, Fessenden
 Neil Baker, Jamestown..... Gun & Reel Sports, Jamestown
 James Schaffer, Cleveland..... Kramlich-Deed Meats, Medina

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative did just that this October with a giveaway contest to celebrate National Co-op Month. Ten \$50 gift certificates were purchased from small businesses around the Northern Plains Electric service area, then gifted to our winning members. It is our hope the contest, in conjunction with this article, will get more people thinking about their local merchants first.

This holiday and every day, before you search that mega online store, try local first. And while you are visiting your local shops, stop and grab something to drink and eat at a local restaurant, coffee shop or bar and grill. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you. Every purchase helps, but it takes all of us to make a change. Like those neighbors who came together to form electric cooperatives in the late 1930s and early 1940s, we urge you to talk to your neighbors and together take a pledge to keep your money closer, so your community can go further.

Make your holidays local

Gift ideas for those hard-to-buy-for adults

Host gifts

- Centerpiece arrangement from a local floral shop.
- Bottle of wine from your neighborhood bar or spirit shop.
- Treats from a mom-and-pop bakery.

Teacher/co-worker gifts

- Gift card to a local coffee shop or health smoothie store.
- Personalized drinkware from a gift boutique.

Stocking stuffers

- Car wash vouchers.
- Hair products from a hometown hair salon. Everyone needs shampoo, right?
- Beef jerky from your local meat locker.

Group gifts

- Create a date night, complete with a gift certificate to a local restaurant and movie passes to your local theater.
- Or put together a family night out with gift cards to a pizza place, bowling alley and ice cream shop!
- Book a photo session with a local photographer. It's a perfect opportunity to get the whole family together. ■

LIGHT THE HOLIDAY WITH SAFETY

As you light your holiday with shining stars and shimmering snowmen, be sure to decorate safely. For a happy, and safe, holiday, follow these tips from Northern Plains Electric Cooperative:

Carefully inspect each electrical decoration for cracked or loose sockets and frayed or bare wires that may cause a serious shock or fire hazard.

Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses. Use only replacement bulbs of the same type and rating as those originally supplied with the lights.

Keep children and pets away from all electrical decorations and outlets. If possible, place decorations out of reach.

Plug outdoor electrical decorations into circuits protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters to prevent electric shock.

Keep all outdoor extension cords and light strings clear of snow and standing water.

Keep yourself and all of your equipment at least 10 feet from power lines when hanging decorations outdoors.

When hanging decorations, do not connect more than three light strings together, unless they are LEDs.

Before using electrical products outside, make sure the products are marked "for outdoor use."

Avoid overloading electrical outlets and circuits, which can overheat and start a fire.

Never use electric lights on a metallic tree, which can become charged with electricity from faulty lights.

Use electrical decorations that are approved for safe use by a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories.

Finally, turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

Never nail or staple light strings or extension cords.



Do you have money waiting for you?

The following people have capital credit checks at Northern Plains Electric Cooperative for which we do not have a current address. Please notify us if you have a current address for any of these people, or if you are entitled to the capital credits in the case of an estate. Information must be received by Jan. 31, 2022. Call us at 800-882-2500.

2021 UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS

Azure, David.....	Belcourt	Hickman, Gary.....	Turtle Lake	Plett, Jody.....	Cando
Backman, Donna.....	Minot	Jacques, Denise J.....	Devils Lake	Price, Greg.....	Menno, S.D.
Barko, Gary D.....	Sheyenne	Jeannotte, Victoria.....	Rolla	Radford, Carol.....	Belcourt
Belgarde, Clifford E.....	Belcourt	Jensen, Dirvin.....	Leeds	Raines, Twila.....	Glendive, Mont.
Bergquist, Lorraine.....	Belcourt	Jerome, Joseph.....	Belcourt	Roberts, Steve.....	Wing
Black Cloud, Ivan.....	Fort Totten	Jones, Leora.....	Cando	Robeson, Lauralee.....	Cando
Botz Family Farm LLP.....	Tucson, Ariz.	Keltgen, John.....	El Dorado Hill, Calif.	Schindler, Jeff.....	Heimdahl
Broten, John T.....	Sheyenne	Laducer, Mary.....	Belcourt	Schulz, Leno.....	Jamestown
Campbell, Stella.....	Rolla	Lamfromboise, Richard.....	Belcourt	Shaw, Andrew.....	Fort Totten
Cavanaugh, Sally A.....	Fort Totten	Lavallie, Shelly.....	Belcourt	Shively, Sandy.....	Cando
Chase, Lexington.....	Belcourt	Lavallie, Terry.....	Belcourt	Slater, Rochelle.....	Belcourt
Church, Terry.....	Bisbee	Leonard, Margaret.....	Jamestown	Slebodnick, Michael J.....	Belcourt
Dauphinais, Kevin.....	Fort Totten	Littlewind, Clifford.....	Fort Totten	Teel, Darlys.....	Fort Totten
Delong, Kristy L.....	Belcourt	Lockhart, Delores.....	Cando	Thibert, Carrie.....	Belcourt
Dramstad, Harry.....	Binford	Malaterre, Kristy.....	Dunseith	Thomas, Rebecca M.....	Belcourt
Dubois, Amber.....	Colorado Springs, Colo.	Marcil, Elinor.....	Rolla	Throlson, Scott.....	Grand Forks
Dubois, Benjamin.....	Fort Totten	McKay II, Ernest.....	Tokio	Tuenge, Karen K.....	Buckeye, Ariz.
Duchaine, Rodney.....	Belcourt	McMahan, Thomas O.....	Rugby	U.S. Post Office.....	Balta
Durum House LLC.....	Amberg, Wis.	McMahan, Thomas.....	Barneveld, Wis.	Vallie, Lynda.....	Belcourt
Feather, Misty B.....	Bismarck	Morin, Cindy.....	Belcourt	Vondal, Chistine.....	Belcourt
Giron-Vargas, Juanita.....	Fort Totten	Morin, Lora.....	Fargo	Walker, Chris.....	Mandan
Grant, Debbie.....	Belcourt	Mutschler, Fred.....	Spiritwood Lake	Wangler, Freddie.....	Balta
Greene, Stephanie.....	Fort Totten	Olson, Robert J.....	Devils Lake	Warren, Louis.....	Belcourt
Gronneberg, Bruce.....	Cooperstown	Overby, Garry.....	Jamestown	Whitley, Leatrice.....	Shakopee, Minn.
Guilbert, Helen.....	Rolla	Parisien, Elmer.....	Belcourt	Wilkie, Nick.....	Belcourt
Guthmiller, Raymond.....	Pettibone	Pedroza, Jacqueline B.....	Belcourt	Yoder, Nile.....	Belcourt
Henderson, Barbara.....	Churchs Ferry	Perkins, Laurie.....	Mandan		



Last call for YOUTH TOUR submissions

High school sophomores and juniors, win the trip of a lifetime!

Check out the essay contest guidelines at <https://nplains.com/youth-tour>

Deadline is Dec. 10.



NPEC celebrated Co-op Month

In addition to the gift card giveaway contest, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative once again offered free popcorn bags to the 19 schools in its service area. About 5,000 popcorn bags were delivered to six schools to be used at their sporting events.

Thanks to all who participated in our activities. Northern Plains Electric is proud to be a cooperative and proud to serve our members and communities. ■



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

An equal opportunity provider and employer.

CANDO OFFICE:
609 4th Ave.
Cando, ND 58324

CARRINGTON OFFICE:
1515 West Main
Carrington, ND 58421

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

www.nplains.com
justask@nplains.com
800-882-2500

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