

Darke Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Buschur, Walters win 2009 Youth Tour trip

Mackenzie Buschur and Reese Walters have been selected to represent Darke Rural Electric Cooperative (Darke REC) on a seven-day, all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., in the 2009 Youth Tour program.

Buschur, a student at Versailles High School, is the daughter of Steve and Vicki Buschur.

Walters attends Ansonia High School and is the son of Timothy and Mindy Walters.

Buschur and Walters will join approximately 40 stu-



Mackenzie Buschur and Reese Walters

dents from other Ohio electric cooperatives for the tour beginning June 12. The first stop will be in Gettysburg and then on to Washington, where they will meet up with approximately 1,600 students from all across the United States.

The week-long tour will include visits to Jefferson and Lincoln memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Zoo, Mt. Vernon, Smithsonian Institution, a night cruise down the Potomac River and many other interesting places. In addition, the students will have the opportunity to meet

with their congressional representative.

The tour is offered so that students can be educated about the principles and practices of American democracy and gain an understanding of the rural electric cooperatives.

The contest is conducted annually and is open to sophomores and juniors whose parents are members of Darke REC. Students write an essay sharing their knowledge about electric cooperatives. A panel of judges select the top two essays.

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Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed Saturdays

Failure to receive your electric bill in no way relieves you, the member, from paying it. If you do not receive your bill, contact us before the due date.

College scholarships awarded

Melinda Heitkamp from Versailles High School and Darick Hiatt from Mississinawa Valley High School are the 2009 recipients of Darke Rural Electric's \$1,000 first-place college scholarships. The two seniors will compete in the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives Scholarship Contest.

They were selected by a panel of three judges in interviews that were held at the cooperative office on April 6. Students were judged on their academic performance, school and community activities, personal interview, as well as their cooperative knowledge.

Darke REC scholarships are awarded to the first-, second- and third-place girl and boy.

The winners are as follows:

\$1,000 Scholarship

Versailles High School



Melinda Heitkamp will attend Wright State University this fall majoring in English education. Her activities include yearbook staff, student council, Special Olympics volunteer, track and Habitat for Humanity. Melinda's parents are Rick and Margie Heitkamp.

Mississinawa Valley High School



Darick Hiatt is pursuing a degree in pharmacy at Ohio Northern University. His activities include 4-H, FFA, football, basketball, student council and National Honor Society. Darick is the son of Daren and Jeanelle Hiatt.

\$700 Scholarship

Ansonia High School



Renee Schmitmeyer will attend Case Western Reserve to study biomedical engineering. Her activities include FFA, track, cross country and National Honor Society. Renee is the daughter of Paul and Carol Schmitmeyer.

National Trail High School



Mark Stonecash will attend Ohio Northern University or Miami University majoring in microbiology. His activities are band, soccer, Brethren Disaster Ministries and National Honor Society. Mark's parents are Kent and Wendy Stonecash.

\$500 Scholarship

Fort Recovery High School



Chelsea Klenke is pursuing a degree as a physical therapist assistant at the James A. Rhodes State College. Her activities are student council, 4-H, volleyball, FCCLA and National Honor Society. Chelsea is the daughter of Kimberly and Keith Will and Rick and Karen Klenke.

Versailles High School



Luke Keiser will attend Wright State University majoring in finance and management information systems. His activities include class officer, football, wrestling, track, St. Louis Youth Ministry and National Honor Society. Luke is the son of Tim and Jenny Keiser.

Disconnection of service for nonpayment

Member-consumers whose bills become past due, and who do not contact the co-op office to make payment arrangements, are subject to disconnection of electric service until payment is received. A notice will be provided to a delinquent member on the electric bill, as well as a separate notice mailed approximately 5 to 6 days prior to the disconnection date. Members should contact Darke REC immediately after receiving the notice so payment arrangements can be made before the actual disconnect date.

Effective in June, employees who are performing service disconnects for nonpayment no longer will accept payments in the field. Payments must be made in person at our office or by phone. The only forms of payment accepted on a disconnected account will be cash, money order, credit card or a payment arrangement, if eligible.

If an electric service is disconnected for nonpayment of the bill, it will not be reconnected after regular business hours. In order to be reconnected the same day, the member's account must be paid in full by 3:30 p.m. on the disconnect day and said payment will include any penalty, trip fees or other costs that may apply.

Tax deduction available for new vehicle purchase

Taxpayers who buy a new car or several other types of motor vehicles this year may be entitled to a special tax deduction when they file their 2009 federal tax returns next year. The tax break is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Here are seven things you should know about this new deduction:

1. State and local sales taxes paid on up to \$49,500 of the purchase price of qualifying vehicles are deductible.
2. Qualified motor vehicles generally include new (not used) cars, light trucks, motor homes and motorcycles.
3. Purchases must occur after Feb. 16, 2009, and before Jan. 1, 2010.
4. This deduction can be taken regardless of whether or not you itemize other

deductions on your tax return.

5. Taxpayers will claim this deduction when filing their 2009 federal income tax return next year.
6. The amount of the deduction is phased out for taxpayers whose modified adjusted gross income is between \$125,000 and \$135,000 for individual filers and between \$250,000 and \$260,000 for joint filers.
7. The deduction may not be taken on 2008 tax returns.



Consumers who are considering buying a new car may find that this tax incentive means there may have never been a better time to buy.

For more information about the sales and excise tax deduction for motor vehicle purchases, visit the official IRS Web site at IRS.gov.

Sign up now for budget billing. . .

If you have been on Darke Rural Electric lines for 12 months, you qualify to sign up for budget billing.

To apply for budget billing, complete this agreement and send it to the co-op office by July 15. If you presently are on budget billing and wish to remain, you do not need to reapply.

Complete agreement and mail to:

Darke Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 278, Greenville, OH 45331

Darke Rural Electric Cooperative Budget Billing Agreement

Agreement made _____, 2009, between Darke Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter called the "Cooperative") and _____ (hereinafter called the "member").

The Cooperative agrees to bill the member a level amount each month based on the member's past use history. The year will begin July 1st and end June 30th, with settlement between actual bill and level-billed amount to be made at the end of the budget year.

The member must be current on their present bill in order to be considered for level billing.

The member agrees to furnish the Cooperative a meter reading each month unless a Turtle® meter has been installed.

The member must pay the level-billed amount by the tenth (10th) for net payment, or the gross payment on the level-billed amount will apply.

The member understands that a failure to meet any of the above terms and conditions of this agreement will cause this agreement to be null and void and the member's electric service account will be removed from level billing.

Either party can cancel this agreement with a 30-day written notice.

For office use only:

Date: _____

Issued by: _____

Account no. _____

Member's signature

Address

Phone number