

# News Release

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**Electric Cooperatives  
of Arkansas**

## **Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas linemen earn apprentice lineman certification**

**Little Rock, Ark.** — Aug. 7, 2018 — Four apprentice linemen from First Electric Cooperative of Jacksonville recently completed the required certification process through a program coordinated by Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Incorporated (AECI).

Launched in September of 2015, the program requires apprentice lineman candidates to complete eight weeks of training at AECI's Little Rock campus over a two-year period. The program curriculum from Northwest Lineman College is accredited and recognized by the United States Department of Labor.

The newly certified apprentice linemen and their electric cooperative are Tyler Bridges, Jason Cates, Daniel Fox and Devin Phillips with First Electric Cooperative of Jacksonville.

The training curriculum involves classroom time and a series of hands-on activities. Program participants may choose to pursue a Journeyman Lineman Certification through the U.S. Department of Labor with their certificate of completion of the AECI program in combination with 8,000 hours of documented on-the-job training. Since 2015, five additional classes of apprentice linemen training have commenced with an additional two classes slated to begin each year.

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas comprise 17 electric distribution cooperatives; Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (AECI), a Little Rock-based cooperative that provides services to the distribution cooperatives; and Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp. (AECC), a generation and transmission cooperative. The distribution cooperatives provide electricity to approximately 500,000 homes, farms and businesses in Arkansas and surrounding states.

**For additional information, contact:**

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