

News Release



**Electric Cooperatives
of Arkansas**

Electric Cooperatives' Electric Vehicle Rally Set for April 17 in Little Rock

Little Rock, Ark. — April 14, 2015 — The 12th Annual Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas Electric Vehicle Rally will be held on Friday, April 17 at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds in Little Rock. The contest will include more than 243 participants representing 14 schools around the state.

“This year we have a record number of participants which reflects the growing interest in electric vehicle technology,” said Rob Roedel, manager of corporate communications for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas. “Today’s students thirst for innovative hands-on learning opportunities that challenge their ingenuity and encourage creativity. The electric vehicle curriculum provides these opportunities for hundreds of students in Arkansas.”

The students are involved in the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas Electric Vehicle program that includes a curriculum that incorporates a variety of disciplines, including math, auto mechanics, physics, engineering, electronics and journalism. Students participate in competitions that test the students’ abilities and their vehicles’ performance capacities. The public is invited to attend the free rally events that begin at 9 a.m.

The day-long event begins with technical and safety inspections of the student vehicles. Students are then focused on an autocross competition and acceleration event. Next, the helmets are unstrapped as the students test their academic knowledge in troubleshooting and quiz bowl competitions. The day wraps up with a race to determine how far the vehicles run on a single charge. On-track and pit lane strategies are a key to winning this event.

Participants in this year’s rally include: Arkansas Career Training Institute; Cabot High School; Central Jr. High (Springdale); Fayetteville High School - Agriculture; Fayetteville High School –Digital Electronics; George Jr. High (Springdale); Hamburg High School; Hillcrest High School; Mabelvale Jr. High; Paragould High School; Ramay Jr. High (Fayetteville); Joe T. Robinson High School; Viola High School; and Woodland Jr. High (Fayetteville).

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.

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