

Roanoke Electric FLASHES

INSIDE

Serving 14,400 Members

"Owned by those we serve"

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REC assisting citizens with 2007 tax returns, refund anticipation loans

The Roanoke Center, located in Rich Square, will assist area citizens in preparing their 2007 income tax returns and assist with receiving a low-interest refund anticipation loan.

From February 4 through April 15, IRS-trained volunteers will prepare 2007 income tax return at no cost, providing your annual income did not exceed \$40,000.

Last year, volunteers at the sites saved taxpayers approximately \$39,000. "Having an IRS-trained volunteer to prepare taxpayers' returns saves money. IRS-trained volunteers know all about the big breaks taxpayers can receive and work extremely hard to make sure they receive all of their benefits,"

said Shirley White, VITA-EITC Coordinator (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance-Earned Income Tax Credit).

The 2006 VITA-EITC sites saw taxpayers receive \$174,072 in federal refunds, \$23,768 in state refunds, \$64,404 in earned income credit, and \$26,232 in child tax credits.

The Roanoke Center has also gone into partnership with Generations Community Credit Union (GCCU) in order to grant a portion of the refund immediately. For those clients wanting cash immediately, they are issued up to \$500 of their refund. The \$500 is a short-term, low-interest loan provided by GCCU, and it is paid



back with interest once the refund is credited to the client's bank account.

Anyone interested in having his or her taxes prepared at The Roanoke Center should call for an appointment. For churches, small community organizations and/or civic groups interested in arranging on-site tax preparations, please contact Shirley White to make arrangements at (252) 539-2236, ext. 270.

Slowly but surely, Roanoke EC's new facility is on its way

The 17 acres of land less than a mile west of the intersection of NC 11 and 561 highways may appear as if nothing is going on. However, behind the scenes



a team of architects is designing Roanoke Electric's new facility. Oakley Collier Architects, P.A. has been hired to design the facility. Roanoke Electric will start requesting construction

bids at the end of this month.

The old age of the existing facility and the demands to upgrade to a more state-of-the-art facility is the driver for this new project. A groundbreaking date is anticipated during the second quarter of 2008.

"This new facility is designed with our valued members in mind," states Curtis Wynn, executive vice president and CEO. The new facility will feature state-of-the-art technologies and numerous enhancements to member services. The facility will have increased accessibility, including a 24-hour deposit box and a

drive-thru window. Also included is a spacious lobby and member care conference rooms that will allow members to discuss their accounts confidentially.

Roanoke Electric employees look forward to serving members from the new facility at the end of 2008 or the beginning of 2009. The current office in Rich Square will continue to operate as the Roanoke Center, the facility developed as a catalyst for economic development in our region. The cooperative will still accept payments at the facility as well.

High school juniors, apply now! Don't miss an opportunity for a free trip to D.C.

What are your summer plans? You could WIN an exciting all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

Two high school juniors whose parents or legal guardians are members of Roanoke Electric Cooperative will explore Washington, D.C., with students from across the nation. Students will see their government in action, cruise the Potomac, meet their congressional leaders, explore the Smithsonian Museums, spend a day on Capitol Hill, and party with 1,000 other teens from across the nation.

Students returning from the Youth Tour say it's the most fun they ever had. They also return to the classroom filled with inspiration and a better understanding of their government and the cooperative efforts that keep our country great.

How do you qualify?

Applicants must be a high school junior. A completed application form must be submitted to Roanoke Electric by March 7. Information and an application form for the Youth Tour can be



downloaded from www.roanokeelectric.com or you can pick one up from your high school guidance counselor. If you have any questions, call our office (252) 539-2236 or contact Juanisha Vaughan-Hart, Coordinator of Public Relations/Communications.

Want to step your game up? Roanoke EC accepting applications for basketball scholarships



Local junior high students are encouraged to apply for the Touchstone Energy Kay Yow & Roy Williams Basketball Camps Scholarship.

Touchstone Energy Basketball Camp Scholarship winners will learn fundamental basketball skills and teamwork. Camp graduates learn new skills that will enable them to excel on and off the basketball court. You'll also get a chance to meet other talented players and even take a picture with the Coach.

The Kay Yow program allows female students in sixth through eighth grades to attend the Kay Yow Basketball Camp at N.C. State University in Raleigh, with all camp costs paid by Roanoke Electric Cooperative and North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC).

Coach Roy Williams' Basketball Camp for boys, held at UNC-Chapel Hill, allows male students in sixth through eighth grades to attend the Roy Williams Basketball camp at UNC-Chapel Hill with all camp costs paid by Roanoke Electric Cooperative and NCEMC.

The Touchstone Energy Basketball Camp Scholarship program is an expression of the electric cooperatives' historic commitment to the community on behalf of its 2.4 million North Carolina consumers.

Application deadline for either camp is 5 p.m. March 28. Visit www.roanokeelectric.com for more information and to download applications.

Are you searching for something different this year? Are you interested in meeting new people, learning something new and experiencing life-altering activities? If so, visit www.roanokeelectric.com for exciting opportunities for students.

Roanoke Electric would like to help with your college expenses, high school seniors need to apply now for an available scholarship

Roanoke Electric will award a \$1,000 scholarship to a high-school senior who has proof of acceptance to a four-year college or university. The recipient's parent or guardian must be a member of Roanoke Electric Cooperative.

This scholarship is awarded to a student who demonstrates an understanding of the co-op way of doing business and who can show financial need. Scholarship criteria

are 50% need, 25% scholastic achievement, and 25% extracurricular activities (school, civic, and community) and essay question.

The application deadline is April 25. An application and more information can be found from www.roanokeelectric.com or from your high school guidance counselor.

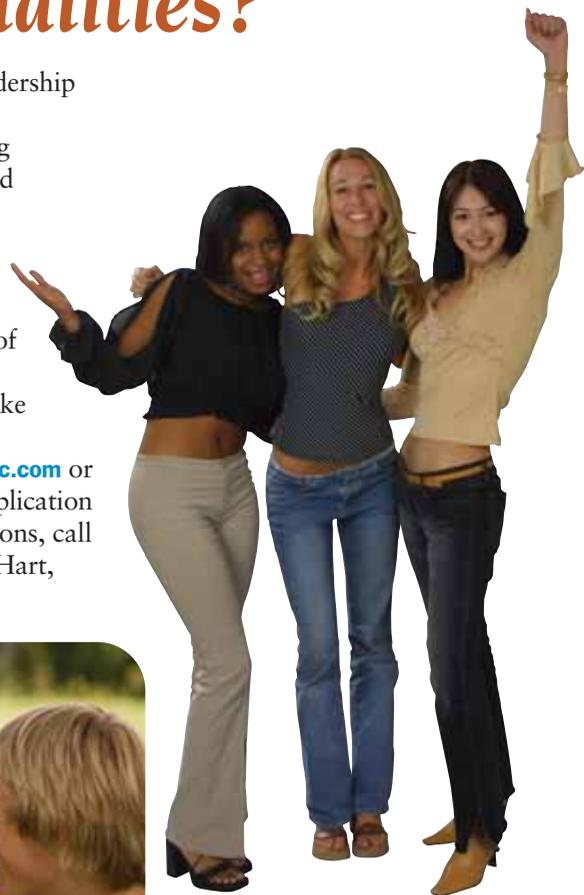


Interested in developing your leadership qualities?

If you are interested in developing or enhancing your leadership qualities, this is the camp for you.

Annually, Roanoke Electric Cooperative provides rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors an opportunity to attend the Youth Leadership Conference to be held in Asheville on July 26-30. This conference is designed with the youth in mind. You'll have the pleasure of meeting many other youth from near by cities. You will also have an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the way co-ops conduct business.

If your parent or legal guardian is a member of Roanoke Electric Cooperative, REC encourages you to apply. Applications can be downloaded from www.roanokeelectric.com or picked up from your high school guidance counselor. Application deadline is 5 p.m., Friday, April 4. If you have any questions, call our office (252) 539-2236 or contact Juanisha Vaughan-Hart, Coordinator of Public Relations/Communications.



Protect pets from electrical hazards

Pets are an integral part of the family. As a pet owner, it is important to take the proper precautions to protect your family pet from danger. Electrical injury is common among household pets, but can easily be prevented.

A mischievous pet can chew on just about anything it comes across, including electrical devices or cords that could severely electrocute them. Pets may also inadvertently cause electrical hazards in your home. These tips will help eliminate the chances of an electrical accident involving your pet:

- Be sure to keep electrical cords away from your pets. Do not allow your pet to chew on cords. If you have difficulty keeping your pets from chewing on cords, you may have to paint the cords with a bitter tasting polish or wrap them in a plastic sleeve.
- Keep halogen lamps away from play areas for pets and children. Some halogen bulbs can get extremely hot, and if accidentally knocked over can become a fire hazard.
- If your pet lives outdoors, be sure to bring them inside or provide a safe place for them to stay in during storms. Dogs on chains are often victims of a lightning strike.
- Pets have a tendency to nap near electronics that produce heat, like warm computer equipment. Break this habit immediately. Pets should be kept away from all electrical connections.
- Keep all electrical devices a safe distance from water sources. Your pet may accidentally knock electrical devices over, creating a dangerous situation.



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For electronic bill payment:
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Energy savings tip of the month

By resetting your programmable thermostat from 72 degrees to 65 degrees for eight hours a day (for instance, while no one is home or while everyone is tucked in bed) you can cut your heating bill by up to 10 percent.
Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

