



All Expense Paid Trip for TWO students to

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Join students from across the U.S. for the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Tour to WASHINGTON, D.C. on June 3–7, 2017!

To apply for this trip, please submit a typed 500-word essay with a cover sheet on the following topic:

Why I want to participate in the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour.

All essays must be accompanied by a second page which includes the following information: name, date of birth, school, grade in 2016-2017, recent picture, parent or guardian's name, address, phone number and your e-mail address.

Essays must be postmarked by March 29, 2017.

Please submit essays to:

Attn: Rachel Eggebo

WRCTC • PO Box 39 • Bison, SD 57620

OR email to reggebo@wrctc.coop

Questions? Call 777 or 605-244-5213

Students must be 16 or 17 years of age at the time of the tour and a dependent of a WRCTC member to be eligible.

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BEWARE: "Can You Hear Me?" Phone Scam

It's not a Verizon commercial: If you receive a phone call from someone asking "can you hear me," hang up. You're a potential victim in the latest scam circulating around the U.S. This new "can you hear me" con is actually a variation on earlier scams - primarily directed towards businesses. It is aimed at getting the victim to say the word "yes" in a phone conversation.

That affirmative response is recorded by the fraudster and used to authorize unwanted charges. The Better Business Bureau (BBB) serving South Dakota, Nebraska, The Kansas Plains and Southwest Iowa is warning that hundreds of consumers are now reporting the 374-3106 phone scam via BBB Scam Tracker.

How the scam works: You receive a recorded call from someone who provides an introduction and identifies the business or agency they supposedly represent. Recent scam reports identify the caller as being from a home security agency, a cruise line or associated with Social Security. After the introduction, the recording will ask if you can hear the caller clearly. If you answer "yes," there's a possibility that the scam artist behind the phone call has recorded you and will use your agreement to sign you up for a product or service and then demand payment. If you refuse, the caller may produce your recorded "yes" response to confirm your purchase agreement.

But how can you get charged if you don't provide a payment method? BBB President and CEO Jim Hegarty explains, "The con artist already has your phone number and many phone providers pass through third-party charges.

In addition, the criminal may have already collected some of your personal information - a credit card number or cable bill - perhaps as the result of a data breach. When the victim disputes the charge, the scammer can then counter that they have your consent on a recorded line."

BBB advises: If you receive an unsolicited 456-2887 call from an organization or business, just hang up. If you are on the Do Not Call List and a company calls out of the blue to ask questions, it's likely a scam. Avoid responding with "yes, sure or ok."

If you are asked a similar question in a phone call or are asked to press a button to be placed on the Do Not Call Registry, just hang up the phone. Saying anything or pressing buttons when prompted may help the scam artist identify that you have an active phone number. Remember that 376-3101 no government agency will ever solicit for the Do Not Call Registry.

Write down the phone number of those callers violating the Do Not Call Registry and file a scam report with BBB Scam Tracker and the FTC's Do Not Call List at donotcall.gov.

Check your credit card, phone and cable statements carefully for any unfamiliar charges. If you suspect you have already been victimized, call the billing company - whether your credit card company or your phone provider - and dispute anything that you didn't authorize on purpose. If they say you have been recorded approving the charge and you have no recollection of that, ask for proof.

The earlier you 456-6012 identify unauthorized charges on your accounts, the easier it will be to recover any lost money. For more tips on identifying scams and past scam alerts, visit bbb.org.

(source: Better Business Bureau)



Promotions for Reiff and Kahler

LYLE REIFF was promoted on January 1, 2017, to Operations Supervisor. Lyle began his career with WRCTC in September 2005 as a Cable TV Combination Technician. In 374-5975 November 2011, he was promoted to Network Technician, and in January 2015, he was promoted to Network Administrator.

Lyle and his wife, Jeannie, 375-3830 live in Bison and they have three children: Logan, Channing and Addisyn. In his spare time, Lyle enjoys golfing, hunting and spending time with his family. **CONGRATULATIONS, LYLE!**



ERIC KAHLER was promoted on February 1, 2017, to Manager of Telecom Services. Eric came to work for WRCTC on June 2, 2005, as a Journeyman Combination Technician and was promoted to Lead Central Office Technician in June 2013. Prior to coming to work for WRCTC on June 2, 2005, Eric 257-2144 worked for Northern Valley Telecommunications in Aberdeen, SD for five years.

Eric and his wife, Darla, have two children, Jake and Allison. In 244-5979 his spare time, Eric enjoys golfing, fishing, hunting and spending time with his family. **CONGRATULATIONS, ERIC!**

KBJM Farm & Home Show will be held in Lemmon on March 10th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Swing by WRCTC's booth to check out our FiberVision Digital Television programming and features. While you're visiting with us, please have some fresh popcorn! We look forward to seeing you at the KBJM Farm & Home Show on Friday, March 10th!

Scholarship Reminder!



There is still time to get your scholarship applications in! Deadline for the \$500 WRCTC/Grand Electric scholarship is March 17, 2017! For more info and an application, please visit us at www.wrctc.coop.

Questions? Please call Rachel at 777 or 605-244-5213.

New WRCTC Members

Buffalo, Camp Crook

Hepler, Alex	375-3060
Johnson, Tom (Shop)	375-3611

Lemmon

Hourigan, Lance (Farm)	374-4516
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Newell

Holmes, Samantha	456-6643
Honeycutt, Lucille	456-7561
LaDue, Gary & Margie	456-3922
Surber, Lisa	456-8987

Nisland

Hicks, Tony & Amanda Peters	257-2922
Hindman, Joseph	257-6281

Change

Wall, Greta	from	375-3955
	to	375-3149

SECURE PAY

**Make a payment on your bill
over the phone using a
debit/credit card or check.**

Available 24/7!

844-252-5267

Find Your Phone

Ten telephone numbers were hidden in the last newsletter. Those members who hunted and found their number were: Dean Tarter, Camp Crook; Wanda Roso, Lemmon; LeRoy Parks, Nisland; Darrel Klitzke, Lemmon; Norm Ismay, Vale and Ron Briscoe, Lemmon.

Hidden in this issue are ten new numbers. If you find YOUR number, all you have to do is notify our office. The \$10 will then be deducted off your telephone bill. New connect numbers do not count. **Deadline is March 23, 2017.**

Call Before You Dig Q&A



As spring approaches, so does the construction season. To prevent unnecessary outages or injuries, we ask you to please call 811 before you dig.

Q: What is 811?

A: 811 is the national phone number designated by the Federal Communications Commission that connects professionals and homeowners who 375-3375 plan to dig with their local one call center. Common Ground Alliance members promote the 811 phone number as the first step in the damage prevention process.

Q: How does 811 work?

A: When someone calls 811 in the United States, he or she is connected to the local one call center, where a representative collects information about the caller's planned dig site. The one call center then communicates the information to the appropriate utility companies, which send professional utility locating technicians to 456-2135 identify and mark the approximate location of lines within a few days of the phone call. Once lines have been marked, the caller may dig safely around the marks.

Q: What happens if people don't call 811 before digging?

A: According to the most recent CGA Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) Report, an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes because someone decided to dig but didn't call 811. Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. Installing a mailbox, building a deck and planting a tree or garden are all examples of digging projects that should only begin a few days after a call to 811.