



**West River
Cooperative
Telephone Company
will be closed
December 25 &
26 in observance
of Christmas,
and January 1 in
observance of
New Years Day.
Happy Holidays!**



facebook.com/WRCTC

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West River Cooperative Telephone Company

Calling on You

Win a **FREE** Trip to Washington, D.C.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE: All 15, 16 & 17 year olds (at the time of tour) whose parent or guardian is a member of West River Cooperative Telephone Company.

WHAT DOES IT COST? Airfare, hotel and meals are FREE. The only expense to attendees are extras such as snacks, souvenirs and shopping.

WHEN: June 3 - June 7, 2024

How DO I ENTER TO WIN A FREE TRIP?

1. Must be a dependent of a WRCTC Member.
2. Must be 15, 16 or 17 at the time of the tour-18 year olds are ineligible.
3. Write an essay, no more than 500 words, on the topic of:
How does your local Telephone Cooperative keep you "connected"?
4. Cover page including your essay's title, your name, address, phone number, email, name of your parent/guardian, name of your school, the grade you are currently in, your age, your T-shirt size and a photo of yourself!
5. Essays will be judged and 2 applicants will win a FREE trip to D.C.!

DEADLINE TO ENTER IS JANUARY 9, 2024



For more information, contact
Brooke Schecher at 605-244-5213
Email bschecher@wrctc.coop or Visit www.wrctc.coop



FOUNDATION FOR
RURAL SERVICE

FRS YOUTH TOUR

www.FRS.org/youthtour

One application qualifies students for several scholarships.

Submitting one application is sufficient for eligibility to all available scholarships.

Scholarships available through FRS:

FRS General Scholarship

\$2,500 awarded for the first year of a 2-year or 4-year college or vocational school.

Everett Kneece Scholarship

\$7,000 awarded in honor of the generous philanthropist Everett Kneece, who had a passion for rural America.

Herbert and Isabel Bitz Memorial Scholarship

\$5,000 to one individual who exhibits a strong 507 2nd Ave W, Lemmon; dedication to rural America

JSI Scholarship

\$5,000 awarded to individuals interested in science, math, medicine, or engineering.

Sarah Tyree Good Neighbor Scholarship

\$5,000 awarded to students who demonstrate what it means to be a "good neighbor" through humanitarianism, inclusion and kindness to others.

Cronin Communications Scholarship

\$2,500 awarded thanks to 18941 Whitewood Valley Rd, Nisland; the generosity of the Timothy Evan Owens Foundation

Diana Jo Dreyer Memorial Scholarship

\$2,500 awarded thanks to the generosity of INDATEL Services LLC to a woman who intends to study business.

Who is eligible to apply?

Each applicant must:

1. Be a graduating high school senior
2. Be a United States citizen
3. Be sponsored by a current member of NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association (West River Cooperative Telephone Company)
4. Complete the on-line application
5. Express an interest to return to a rural community following graduation

What is included in the application?

To complete the online application you will need the following items:

1. A 500-800 word essay about your intended area of study and how it could benefit your rural community. Proofread your essay before submitting because the essay is the most important part of the application
2. Email addresses for two people who can provide a letter of recommendation. Only one of these people may be a teacher, counselor, or educator.
3. High School transcript with 7 semesters. It does not have to be an official copy.
4. The correct name of the NTCA Member company that will sponsor your application.

Deadline to apply is February 16, 2024. Visit frs.org/programs/youth-programs/scholarships

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FROM BISON, BUFFALO, FAITH, HETTINGER, LEMMON, AND NEWELL!

HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A \$750 SCHOLARSHIP!

Deadline to apply is March 8, 2024

One senior from each school district will be awarded a scholarship from Grand Electric and West River Cooperative Telephone Company for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year!

Applications are available online at www.grandelectric.coop, through the Guidance Counselor at your school or from Grand Electric Cooperative in Bison. Please mail your completed application and any extra documents to: Grand Electric, Attn: Scholarship Program, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620.

Requirements: Must be a member of WRCTC/Grand Electric or a dependent of a WRCTC/Grand Electric member; must be a U.S. citizen and must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate or graduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational technical school. Must fully complete Essay and Scholarship Application.

ARE YOU CURRENTLY ENROLLED OR PLANNING TO ATTEND A TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ELECTRICIAN OR POWERLINE PROGRAM?

APPLY NOW for this \$750 Scholarship!

Students currently enrolled or planning to attend a Qualified Program (listed below), submit applications by **March 8, 2024**

QUALIFIED PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Information Systems Technology

Telecommunications

Electrical Utilities & Substation Technology

Power Line Construction & Maintenance

Utilities Technology-Heating & Cooling

Utilities Technology-Power Line

Electrical Construction & Maintenance

Heating & Cooling Technology

One applicant will be awarded a scholarship for the Fall 2024 Semester. Scholarship recipients will be chosen based on a combination of SAT/ACT score; overall GPA; work experience; written essay on why you should receive the scholarship; letter of recommendation and applicant appraisal.

For an application or more information, please call 605-244-5211 or 800-592-1803, or contact the Guidance Counselor at your school. Applications can also be found online at www.grandelectric.coop.

Requirements: Must be a member of Grand Electric and/or West River Cooperative Telephone Company (WRCTC) or a dependent of a Grand Electric/WRCTC member; must be a U.S. citizen and must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate or graduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational technical school.

Kahler visits Washington, D.C.

General Manager Eric Kahler, along with other South Dakota Telecommunication Leaders, had the opportunity to meet with U.S. Senator John Thune and U.S. Senator Mike Rounds. They discussed the importance of communication services and the crucial role they play in Rural America.



South Dakota Telecommunication Leaders meet with U.S. Senators in Washington, D.C..

ROUND-UP

The West River Cooperative Telephone Company's Round-Up Program was designed to help those in need! By donating a few pennies every month, you could give a helping hand to those who have fallen on hard times. If you know of someone who could 13170 Redig Rd, Newell; benefit from this program, please contact one of WRCTC's Round-Up Committee members:

Julie Hatle - Bison - 605-788-2968

Renita Brunner - Vale - 605-456-2592

Yvonne Campbell - Lemmon - 605-374-5362

If you would like to sign up for the Round-Up Program, please submit the form below, call our office at 605-244-5213 or submit your request online at www.wrctc.coop/contact.

The Power of Change

As a WRCTC member, you have a unique opportunity to support Round-Up, a program that provides financial support to Community members facing hardship or an organization in need of financial support.

GIVE A LITTLE....GAIN A LOT!

By signing this form you authorize WRCTC to Round-Up your telephone bill each month to the nearest dollar.

Send this form back with your monthly bill or mail to:
WRCTC, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620

Name on Account _____

Signature _____

Phone Number _____

Statement of Nondiscrimination

West River Cooperative Telephone Company is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity 607 9th Ave W., Lemmon; conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).

Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available PO Box 54, Bison; in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax:
(202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email:
program.intake@usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

New WRCTC Members

Meadow

Bell, Lee & Chanda 605-788-2221

Newell

Childers, Betsy 605-456-4300

Wilson, Debora 605-456-6978

Youngberg, Todd & LuAnn 605-456-5542

Cooperative Appreciation Month \$50 Bill Credit WINNERS

1. John & Susan Henrichsen – Rapid City
2. Peter & Mabel Flaigg – Vale
3. B.C. & Sharon Struble – Buffalo
4. Marie Donohue – Sturgis
5. James Boggs – Lemmon
6. Kermet & Cindy Kahl – Shadehill
7. Charles & Barbara Verhulst – Reva
8. John & Connie Maxwell – Newell
9. Dennis & Vandra Peterson – Lemmon
10. William & Donna Erhart – Lemmon



Congratulations!

Find Your Address

Five addresses were hidden in the last newsletter. Hidden in this issue are five new addresses. If you find YOUR address, all you have to do is notify our office. The \$20 will then be deducted off your next telephone bill. Changes of address in the New WRCTC Members section do not count. **Deadline is December 27, 2023.**

\$20
bill credit

National Do Not Call Registry Q&A

Don't let Telemarketers Ruin your Day!

Why would I register my phone number with the National Do Not Call Registry?

The National Do Not Call Registry gives you an opportunity to limit the telemarketing calls you receive. Once you register your phone number, telemarketers covered by the National Do Not Call Registry have up to 31 days from the date you register to stop calling you.

Who manages the National Do Not Call Registry?

The National Do Not Call Registry is managed by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the nation's consumer protection agency. It is enforced by the FTC, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and state law enforcement officials.

How soon after I register will I notice a reduction in calls?

Telemarketers covered by the National Do Not Call Registry have up to 31 days from the date 13916 208th Ave., Meadow; you register to stop calling you.

When I register my phone number, how long until it shows up on the National Do Not Call Registry?

After you register, your phone number will show up on the registry by the next day. Telemarketers have up to 31 days to get your phone number and remove it from their call lists.

What if I change my mind? Can I take my number off the National Do Not Call Registry?

You can delete your phone number only by calling toll-free 1-888-382-1222 from the telephone number you want to delete. After you contact the registry to delete it, it will be removed from the National Do Not Call Registry by the next day. But telemarketers have up to 31 days to access information about your deletion and add your number back to their call lists, if they choose to.

I have more than one personal telephone number. How can I register all of those numbers?

You may register up to three telephone numbers (including cell phone numbers) at one time on the National Do Not Call Registry website. You will receive a separate confirmation email for each number you wish to register online. You must open each email and click on the link in each one to complete the registration process. If you have more than three personal telephone numbers, you will have to go through the registration process more than once to register all of your numbers. There is a limit on the number of phone numbers you can register in this manner. If registering via telephone, you can register only one number at a time and you must call from the telephone number you are registering.

How do I get more information about the registry?

You can visit the website for the National Do Not Call Registry at www.donotcall.gov or call the registry's toll-free number (1-888-382-1222).