

April 24, 2008

Fifth annual Arkansas Electric Vehicle Rally set for April 25

Little Rock, Ark. — April 24, 2008 — With gasoline prices soaring, students from high schools across Arkansas are turning toward electric-powered vehicles.

The students are participating in the fifth annual Arkansas Electric Vehicle Rally scheduled for Friday, April 25, at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds. The event is sponsored by the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas.

Students from Arkansas high schools and two community colleges will compete in an exciting and challenging mix of competitions designed to test the teams' and their vehicles' abilities. The public is invited to attend the rally events, which begin at 9 a.m. Admission is free.

The event kicks off with technical inspections and rigorous safety inspections of the students' vehicles. Then, oral presentations by the students and troubleshooting competitions will test the teams' abilities. Next, academics are left behind as the participants move to the track and strap on helmets for an acceleration event. An autocross competition will follow. Teams will then participate in a quiz bowl to test the students' knowledge of science and electric vehicles. Next, the teams return to the track to test how far these vehicles can go on a single charge. The on-track and pit lane strategies make this event one of the most exciting in the rally.

This year's field of vehicles is the largest in the event's five-year history, said Doug White, vice president of systems services for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas.

"This program continues to grow each year," White said. "We expect interest will only continue to grow with the increasing interest in green, renewable energy. The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas are not only dedicated to encouraging the use of green power, we are also dedicated to providing educational opportunities for the youth of our state."

The EV program is an ongoing education program that includes students from a variety of disciplines, including math, auto mechanics, physics, engineering, electronics, journalism and other classes. Throughout the year, students complete a variety of activities related to the EV program, developing presentations and taking part in a wide range of projects. The highlight of this unique project is the design and construction of electric vehicles that the students can actually drive and enter in the statewide competition.

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas comprise 17 electric distribution cooperatives; Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Inc. (AECI), a Little Rock-based cooperative that provides various services to the distribution cooperatives; and Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp. (AECC), a generation and transmission cooperative. The distribution

cooperatives provide electricity to more than 480,000 members, or customers, in Arkansas and surrounding states.

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