

News Release



**Electric Cooperatives
of Arkansas**

Sixth Annual Arkansas Electric Vehicle Rally Slated for May 1 in Little Rock

Little Rock, Ark. — April 27, 2009 — As the United States searches for answers to dependence on foreign oil, high school students from across Arkansas are working on the beginning of a solution – electric vehicles. The students will display their work at the sixth annual Arkansas Electric Vehicle Rally scheduled for Friday, May 1, at the Pulaski Tech – South Campus in Little Rock. The event is sponsored by the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas.

Students from four Arkansas high schools 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. There is no charge to attend the event.

“Each year the contest has grown and the level of innovation displayed by the students increases,” said Doug White, vice president of systems services for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas. “The cooperatives are strong advocates for education.”

The event kick-offs with technical inspections and rigorous safety inspections of the student vehicles. Then, oral presentations by the students and troubleshooting competitions test 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 follows with many twists and turns. Teams then participate in a quiz bowl to test their knowledge of science and electric vehicles. The teams then return to the track to test how far the 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.

Among the schools participating in this year's rally are: Cabot High School; Corning High School; East Arkansas Community College, Mid-South Community College, Paragould High School; and Phillips County Community College.

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 activities, developing presentations and taking part in a wide range of projects. The highlight of this 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 490,000 members, or customers, in Arkansas and surrounding states.

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