

## Power Up Your Creativity:

### Celebrate Lineworkers with CBEC's 4th Annual Coloring Contest

Unleash your creativity and pull out your favorite art supplies. It's time to honor the remarkable men and women who keep our communities bright and connected. Lineworkers risk their lives every day to ensure our homes stay powered, and on Friday, April 18, we celebrate their extraordinary dedication.

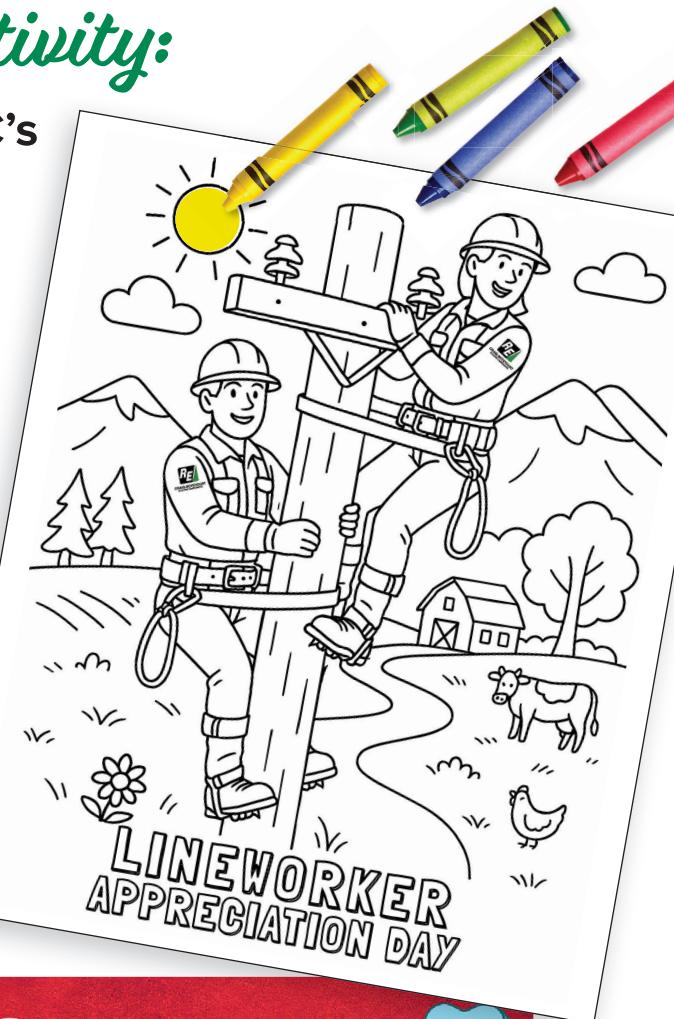
In recognition of their service, CBEC is excited to host our fourth annual Lineworker Appreciation Day Coloring Contest, and we invite artists of all ages to join the fun! From Jan. 19 through Feb. 13, participants can submit their most colorful creations using the official coloring page available at [cbec.coop/my-cooperative](http://cbec.coop/my-cooperative).

Every artist who enters will receive a special gift from CBEC, and one standout submission will be featured in a future issue of *Cooperative Living* magazine.

The winning artist will also receive a \$50 gift card.

To enter, simply email your completed artwork to [maiya.ashby@cbec.coop](mailto:maiya.ashby@cbec.coop) or drop it off at the CBEC office or mail it to P.O. Box 265, New Castle, VA 24127. Before submitting, please review the official contest rules. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to [maiya.ashby@cbec.coop](mailto:maiya.ashby@cbec.coop).

Only one entry is allowed per person — so make it your most vibrant yet. Join us in celebrating the courage and commitment of our lineworkers and let the coloring begin!



#### CONTACT US

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#### Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

#### President

Patrick J. Ryan

#### CEO

Jeff M. Ahearn

*Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*

**Community Blood Drive**

**LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026**  
**2:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

**CBEC MEMBER?**

**DONATE AND BE ENTERED TO WIN 1 OF 2 \$50 ACCOUNT CREDITS!**

**RE** CRAIG-BOTETOURT  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# Winter Weather Prep with CBEC



**W**hen winter settles across the Blue Ridge and Appalachian foothills, the beauty of snow-covered peaks also brings the annual threat of ice, heavy snow and high winds. For CBEC, preparing for winter storms is a year-round priority and we want our members to feel equally confident, informed and ready.

As a local, member-owned cooperative, we know that winter weather can arrive quickly and hit our rural communities especially hard. That's why CBEC maintains a robust storm-response plan that combines preparation, prevention and communication to keep you safe and restore power as efficiently as possible.

## HOW CBEC PREPARES LONG BEFORE WINTER ARRIVES

**W**hile many members begin winterizing homes in late fall, CBEC's preparation starts months in advance:

### Year-Round Vegetation Management

Ice-laden branches are one of the biggest threats to power lines. Our crews and contracted right-of-way clearing company, Hurst Landworks, work throughout the year trimming trees, removing dangerous limbs and clearing rights-of-way to reduce outage risks when winter storms hit.

### System Inspections & Equipment Upgrades

CBEC line technicians perform routine inspections on poles, transformers and critical infrastructure. Aging equipment is replaced before peak winter conditions can test the grid's strength.

### Emergency Response Training

Every CBEC employee plays a role during storm events — from dispatchers and member service teams to lineworkers. Regular training ensures everyone is prepared to respond swiftly and safely.

### Partnerships with Neighboring Co-ops

Through mutual aid agreements, CBEC can call in extra line crews from nearby cooperatives during major outages. This cooperative spirit helps restore service faster and keeps our rural communities resilient.



## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A STORM IS ON THE WAY

**A**s soon as winter weather advisories are issued, CBEC's operations center activates storm-monitoring protocols. This includes:

- Staffing additional crews and support teams
- Staging trucks and equipment where they're needed most
- Monitoring weather radar and system performance
- Coordinating with emergency services and local officials

These proactive steps mean we can begin responding the moment conditions allow.

## HOW CBEC RESTORES POWER DURING A STORM

**W**hen outages occur, CBEC follows a structured restoration process designed to restore power to the greatest number of members as quickly and safely as possible.

- Transmission lines and substations — the backbone of the system
- Main distribution lines — serving large areas of the community
- Tap lines — neighborhood-level lines
- Individual service lines — outages at single homes or properties

Our lineworkers often work around the clock, sometimes in freezing rain, snow and darkness, to ensure power is restored safely.

## HOW MEMBERS CAN PREPARE FOR WINTER STORMS

Though CBEC works hard to strengthen the system, preparation at home is just as important. Before winter storms arrive, members should:

### Build a Home Emergency Kit

Include flashlights, batteries, blankets, a first-aid kit, nonperishable food, water, prescriptions and a battery-powered radio.

### Plan for Backup Heat & Power

If you use a generator, always operate it outdoors, away from windows and vents. Never use ovens or grills for heating.

### Charge Devices Early

Fully charge phones, portable battery packs, medical equipment and essential electronics ahead of predicted storms.

### Prepare Your Property

- Insulate pipes
- Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

- Have firewood ready if you use a wood stove

### Stay Connected with CBEC

Follow outage updates through:

- CBEC's website
- Social media channels
- Outage map and reporting tools (SmartHub)

These systems allow us to keep you informed when conditions change rapidly.



### A FINAL WORD FROM YOUR COOPERATIVE

Winter weather in Virginia can be unpredictable, but your electric cooperative is committed to standing with you through every storm. At CBEC, preparedness is more than a plan — it's a promise grounded in service, safety and community.

Together, we'll keep the lights on, stay warm and weather the winter season with confidence.

## Energize Your Future: Apply for CBEC's 2026 Scholarships



Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative is now accepting scholarship applications from high school seniors planning to continue their education after graduation. Scholarships are offered through the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives Education Scholarship Foundation, which has awarded more than 1,000 scholarships totaling over \$1 million since its creation in 2001.

For the 2026 cycle, applications will be accepted from Feb. 2 through April 1, 2026, and award recipients will be notified no later than June 1, 2026. The online application and complete eligibility details are available at [vmdaec.com/scholarship](http://vmdaec.com/scholarship).

High school and homeschooled seniors graduating in spring 2026, whose primary residence is served by CBEC, are invited to apply. Scholarships are \$1,500, with some students receiving awards of up to \$2,500, which may be used at any two- or four-year college or accredited trade/technical school.

Supporting students in their pursuit of higher education reflects CBEC's ongoing commitment to strengthening our community. "Every little bit helps when you're paying for a college education," says VMDAEC Education Scholarship Foundation Chairman Rusty Brown.

Applicants must be entering their first semester of post-secondary, technical or trade school in fall 2026. Scholarship funds, sent directly to the educational institution, may be applied toward tuition, student fees, room and board, and textbooks.

Recipients will be selected by the Foundation's board of directors using the following weighted criteria: financial need (40%), academic achievement (40%) and the applicant's personal statement (20%).

Questions about scholarships or making a donation to the Foundation may be directed to [scholarship@vmdaec.com](mailto:scholarship@vmdaec.com).