

Reaching New Heights

On Oct. 30, nearly 80 determined young women from across the commonwealth, including Rockbridge and Bath County, attended the fourth annual Girl Power Camp hosted by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives. Young women challenge themselves while learning about careers in the energy industry, working on a line crew, in a substation, with advanced metering technology or as a fiber broadband technician.

BARC Electric Cooperative was one of several cooperatives helping to make this powerful career experience available to young ladies. In attendance were Shiann Chaplin and Kendra Hise of Bath County High School and Kally Botulinski and Maddie Lipscomb of Rockbridge County High School. These 4 young ladies agree they were challenged while having fun learning new skills.

Kendra Hise says, "I really enjoyed learning to climb. It pushed me to my limit and showed me I can do anything I set my mind to."



BARC has supported the event since its inception in 2021 when just a dozen students participated, including twin sisters from Rockbridge County.

If you know a high school student or young woman interested in attending the 2025 camp, please contact Amanda at acunningham@barcelectric.com.



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Chief Executive Officer
Bill Buchanan

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Amanda Cunningham

BARC Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Tommy Ford

BARC is deeply saddened to announce the passing of Director Edsel "Tommy" Ford on Nov. 5, 2024.

Ford spent over 25 years in the insurance industry serving as State Manager and Director for National Savings Life Insurance Company. He opened and operated a general store in Hot Springs for 15 years before retiring. Ford's public service includes terms on the Bath County Board of Supervisors and Bath County School Board.

In 2006, Ford joined the BARC Board of Directors, and during his 18 year tenure, helped to provide services and contributions to the cooperative and its 10,000 members. Also, during his tenure at BARC, he helped support BARC Connects Fiber Broadband, which brought high-speed internet to over 5,000 customers.

BARC is grateful for Ford's 18 years of service and many contributions. He will be missed by the BARC members, board, management and employees, as well as the residents of Bath County.



BARC Receives Community Connect Grant

On Oct. 30, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that BARC Connects Fiber Broadband, a wholly owned subsidiary of BARC Electric Cooperative, was awarded \$4.5 million under the Community Connect Grant Program.

This funding will support the fiber construction project that will cover 60 miles and reach almost 400 additional eligible locations in the Collierstown area of Rockbridge County.

“We are thankful to have received this funding provided by the USDA, made possible through the Rural Utilities Service. We could not have achieved this success without the hard work and support of our BARC Connects staff, board and, most importantly, the Collierstown community. Also, a special thank you to the Rockbridge County supervisors,

administrators and staff for making the Lake Robertson Park office available as a community broadband access point, a requirement under the grant,” says BARC Connects CEO Bill Buchanan. “This money will help provide our communities with reliable and affordable internet services that help with remote learning, work from home options and attending doctor appointments virtually.”

Administered by the RUS, the Community Connect Grant Program provides targeted financial assistance to extend broadband service to areas that are unserved by an internet service provider. Projects were selected through a competitive process that evaluated each project for demonstrated need and benefit for the community, applicant readiness and capacity, and the cost and leverage of the proposed project.



“This money will help provide our communities with reliable and affordable internet services ...”

— Bill Buchanan,
CEO of BARC Connects



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BARC Communities



(Left) On Nov. 21, BARC Electric and BARC Connects employees attended the Rockbridge County High School's CatCrew Works Trade School and Career Fair. Students learned more about careers in the electric and broadband industries.





(Right) BARC linemen helped support the Warm Springs community and the Bath County Parks and Recreation department last month by stringing lights to a very tall Christmas tree.

(Bottom, left) Students at Valley Elementary School enjoyed learning about the "magic of electricity." This educational program is coordinated through the local Bath 4-H office and was supported by BARC Electric Cooperative and Old Dominion Electric Cooperative.



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ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: Scholarship Application Opens Feb. 1

BARC Electric Cooperative is excited to announce that the 2024-25 Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives Education Scholarship Foundation application window will open from Feb. 1 until April 1.

Each year, the Education Scholarship Foundation awards \$1,000 scholarships to deserving high school seniors pursuing postsecondary education. These scholarships are awarded by the VMDAEC Education Scholarship Foundation and can be applied toward the applicant's tuition, student fees, room and board or textbooks.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- The primary residence of the applicant's parent or legal guardian must receive its power from one of the 16 electric cooperatives served by the VMDAEC.
- Applicants applying for a scholarship must be a senior graduating from either high school or homeschool in 2025.
- Applicant must be entering his or her first semester at a post-secondary school in the fall of 2025.

The Foundation's board of directors will select recipients based on a combination of weighted criteria that includes 40% financial need, 40% academic achievement and 20% personal statement.

Questions about the application process can be answered at pr@barcelectric.com or barcelectric.com/scholarship-program.

