

Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship Applications Due March 31

Pee Dee Electric to award full scholarships to basketball camp to two local students

The deadline is quickly approaching for middle-school students to apply for an all-expense paid scholarship from Pee Dee Electric to attend summer basketball camp at two of the state's largest universities. Pee Dee Electric is awarding two Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships to local students this year. One young man will be selected to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp June 20-24 at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and one young lady will win a scholarship to Camp June Wolfpack at Women's Basketball Camp June 14-17 at N.C. State University in Raleigh. Applications must be received or postmarked by March 31.

"These scholarships are a fantastic way for young athletes to experience life on a college campus and learn from mentors at their favorite NCAA athletic programs," said Anne Edwards, marketing representative at Pee Dee Electric. "We're proud to reward local students for their hard work by providing this exciting opportunity to have a great time, make new friends and develop fundamental skills that will help them excel on and off the court."



At camp students will work directly with the players and coaches to learn basketball skills and about leadership and teamwork. To be eligible for applications must be in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the 2015-2016 school year. Applicants must have permission from a parent or guardian to attend the overnight camp and must provide their own transportation to and from the camp if provided to attend.

Applications and more information on the scholarships can be found at www.ncelectriccooperatives.com/community, or by contacting Anne Edwards at 704-694-7608. Applicants will be judged on academics, extra-curricular activities and an essay. Winners are expected to be announced by May 1. The Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships provide a one-of-a-kind educational and athletic opportunity to our state's youth and reflect Touchstone Energy's core values of accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community. North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives will award more than 50 sports camp scholarships to students statewide this year.

Pee Dee Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative whose goal is to provide reliable, dependable electric service for its members while focusing on value, quality customer service, and enhancing life in the communities we serve. Pee Dee's service area consists of Anson, Richmond, Union, Stanly, Montgomery, Moore and Scotland counties. For more information about Pee Dee Electric, please visit www.pedemc.com.

Thanks to All for a Successful Clover Crawl

This is a release from Roshunda Terry, 4-H Agent with Anson County 4-H: Anson County 4-H and 4-H Youth Promise would like to express our gratefulness to each and everyone who helped make our Clover Crawl a success. Supporters, volunteer leaders, planning committee members, alumni, parents, schools, industries, businesses and most of all the staff went the extra mile to support our cause. Because of everyone involved, we were a great success again this year.

We met our event goal of \$16,000, and to say the least we were ecstatic. Thank you so much for your help in making this happen. It makes our job much easier to know that we have such hardworking individuals around to support the program to help make it successful. All of you are amazing individuals and Anson County 4-H and 4-H Youth Promise is very fortunate to have supporters like you behind us.

Thank you letters will be sent out to individuals who supported the Clover Crawl. We are truly grateful to have each and every one of you standing in our corner. With your help and continued support Anson County 4-H and 4-H Youth Promise will grow to new heights. If you would like to see changes or give comments about the Clover Crawl please feel free to contact us at 704-694-2915. We would love to hear from you.

Go ahead and mark your calendars for our 2016 Clover Crawl, which will be Friday, March 11, 2016. Same clover time, same clover place. We hope to see each of you there!

Citizen Science Program Needs Your Help Observing the Weather!

Do you ever wonder how much rainfall you received from a recent thunderstorm? How about snowfall during a winter storm? If so, an important volunteer weather observing program needs your help! The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow network, or CoCoRaHS, is looking for new volunteers across North Carolina. The grassroots effort is part of a growing national network of volunteer-based and amateur rain spotters with a goal of providing a high density precipitation network that will supplement existing observations.

"We have just one volunteer precipitation observer across Anson County," said David Glenn, CoCoRaHS State Coordinator and meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Newport/Morehead City.

CoCoRaHS came about as a result of a devastating flash flood that hit Fort Collins, Colorado, in July 1997.

A local severe thunderstorm dumped over a foot of rain in several hours while other portions of the city by surprise and caused \$200 million in damages. CoCoRaHS was born in 1998 with the intent of doing a better job of mapping and reporting intense storms. As more volunteers participated, rain, hail, and snow maps were produced for every storm showing fascinating local patterns that were of great interest to the public. Recently, drought reporting has also become an important observation within the CoCoRaHS program across the nation. In fact, drought observations from CoCoRaHS are now being included in the National Integrated Drought Information System.

North Carolina became the twenty-first state to establish the CoCoRaHS program in 2007, and by 2010, the CoCoRaHS network had reached all 50 states with nearly ten thousand observations being reported each day. Through CoCoRaHS, thousands of volunteers, young and old, document the size, intensity, duration and patterns of rain, hail, and snow by taking simple measurements in their own backyards.

Volunteers may obtain an official rain gauge through the CoCoRaHS website (www.cocorahs.org) for about \$30 plus shipping. Besides the need for an official 4 inch plastic rain gauge, volunteers are required to take a simple training module online and use the CoCoRaHS website to submit their reports. Observations are immediately available on maps and reports for the public to view. The process takes only five minutes a day, but the impact to the community is tenfold: By providing high quality, accurate measurements, the observers are able to supplement existing networks and provide useful results to scientists, resource managers, decision makers and other users.

"North Carolina has one of the most complex climates in the U.S.," said Dr. Ryan Boyles, state climatologist and director of the State Climate Office, based at North Carolina State University. "Data gathered from CoCoRaHS volunteers are very important in better understanding local weather and climate patterns."

"An additional benefit of the program to the National Weather Service is the ability to receive timely reports of significant weather (hail, intense rainfall, localized flooding) from CoCoRaHS observers that can assist forecasters in issuing and verifying warnings for severe thunderstorms," added David Glenn.

How does one become a CoCoRaHS observer? Go to the CoCoRaHS website above and click on the "Join CoCoRaHS" emblem on the upper right side of the main website. After registering, take the simple online training, order your 4 inch rain gauge and start reporting!

"We are in need of new observers across the entire state. We would like to emphasize rural locations, areas of higher terrain, and areas near the coast," added Glenn.

North Carolina CoCoRaHS can also be reached on Facebook and through Twitter.

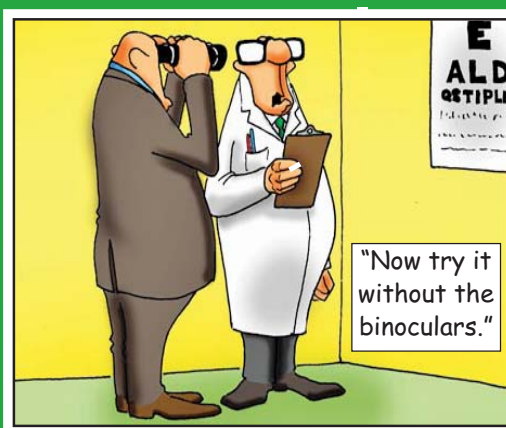


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