

## Celebrating our Linemen

National Lineman Appreciation Day was established to highlight the dedicated individuals who play a vital role in maintaining the efficiency of our electric grid. These often-overlooked professionals work tirelessly to guarantee our access to electricity every day.

Their job often involves working in dangerous weather conditions and responding to outages quickly and efficiently in the middle of the night. Despite the challenges they encounter, linemen persevere to keep our communities powered. National Lineman Appreciation Day provides an opportunity to recognize their contributions and express gratitude for their commitment to First Electric's members.

Let's show our appreciation for linemen by thanking them for their hard work and recognizing their vital role in the communities we serve!



We observe the national holiday celebrated on April 18, 2025.



Chris Wiles, Ryan Williams, Matt Tracy and Nick Overton pictured with a student at Perryville Elementary School's Career Day.



First Electric linemen assist Central EMC and Excelsior EMC Georgia with power restoration after Hurricane Helene.



Dylan Skinner and Hunter Gullick at CabotFest.

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: *Connor Gaunt*

A simple moment we experience as a child can sometimes lead us down a path that will impact the rest of our lives. For lifelong member Connor Gaunt, that moment happened in a pasture located in the center of First Electric Cooperative's service area. From the view of his stroller, he watched his father take swing after swing at a small white ball that would eventually lead the future golfer down an extraordinary and green path.

Before Connor could walk, he had an internal love of golf, and once he could, he had a club in his hands. Before age 10, he was traveling to compete in golf tournaments and was quickly ranked within the top 25 in the nation. As a sophomore at Cabot High School, he committed to playing for Arkansas Tech after graduating in 2019. During his time at Arkansas Tech, COVID-19 interfered, but it still set him up for success. He was later invited to play for Louisiana State University (LSU). LSU not only greeted Connor with their welcoming culture but also granted him the opportunity to excel in his sport and education. His experience at LSU led him to become an All-American, a quarterfinalist at the 2023 U.S. Amateur, and a proud graduate holding a bachelor's degree in business and a master's in business administration.

Connor has accomplished many things and is now appearing in the professional golf scene. Those cherished moments with his father in an Arkansas field have impacted Connor's life in many ways. When asking Connor what accomplishment he would want to be most remembered for, his answer is one with sincere gratitude, "that I use my talents not to highlight myself but instead to highlight God's greatness." Before the beginning of each game, he prays that his actions represent the Lord and that he can honor Him through his gift. A lesson to remember is that during those seemingly simple moments, be present, for those moments could lead your life for years to come.



Connor Gaunt greets a young fan at the Compliance Center Solutions Championship by the Korn Ferry Tour.



Connor Gaunt with his father, John Gaunt.



Connor Gaunt and Logan Stephens.



Connor Gaunt at the United States Amateur competition.



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