

May 10, 2007

Fourth Annual Arkansas Electric Vehicle Rally Slated for May 11 in Little Rock

Little Rock, Ark. — May 10, 2007 — As the price of gasoline continues to rise, students from high schools across Arkansas are looking for a solution via electric-powered vehicles.

The students are participating in the fourth annual Arkansas Electric Vehicle Rally scheduled for Friday, May 11, at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds. 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. Admission is free.

The event kicks off with technical inspections and rigorous safety inspections of the student vehicles. Then, oral presentations by the students and troubleshooting competitions will 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 will follow with many twists and turns. Teams will then participate in a quiz bowl to test the students' knowledge of science and electric vehicles. Next, the teams return to the track to test how far these 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.

The schools participating in this year's rally are: Armorel High School, Bryant High School, Corning High School (two teams), North Little Rock High School, Paragould High School and Sheridan High School. This year's field of vehicles is the largest in the event's four-year history.

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 a variety of activities, developing presentations and taking part in a wide range of projects. The highlight of this unique 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 460,000 members, or customers, in Arkansas and surrounding states.

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