

# News Release

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**Electric Cooperatives  
of Arkansas**

## **Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas Electric Vehicle Rally Slated for May 6 in Little Rock**

**Little Rock, Ark.** — May 2, 2011 — Interest in electric vehicles continues to grow in the United States and in Arkansas the interest has led to a record number of entrants in the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas Electric Vehicle Rally.

More than 170 students from 12 schools are slated for the starting grid of the rally that is scheduled for Friday, May 6 at the Pulaski Tech – South Campus in Little Rock.

Students 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. There is no charge to attend the event.

"This contest has grown tremendously since our first rally in 2003," said Rob Roedel, manager of corporate communications for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas. "The growth has been two-fold, the number of schools and the level of knowledge displayed by the students."

The event kick-offs with technical inspections and rigorous safety inspections of the student vehicles. Then, oral presentations by the students and troubleshooting competitions 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 follows with many twists and turns. Teams then participate in a quiz bowl to test their knowledge of science and electric vehicles. The teams then return to the track to test how far the 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.

Among the schools participating in this year's rally are: Arkansas Tech University – Ozark; Cabot High School; Central Junior High School (Springdale); Corning High School; George Junior High School (Springdale); Hillcrest High School; Lamar High School; Mabelvale Middle School; Mid-South Community College, Paragould High School; Southwest Junior High School (Springdale); and Springdale High School.

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 activities, developing presentations and taking part in a wide range of projects. The highlight of this 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 services to distribution cooperatives; and Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp. (AECC), a generation and transmission cooperative. The distribution cooperatives provide electricity to more than 490,000 members, or customers, in Arkansas and surrounding states.

### **For additional information, contact:**

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