

PLUGGED IN

MOUNTAIN PARKS ELECTRIC, INC.

What We're Thankful For

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, MPE employees have been reflecting on what we're thankful for this year. In gathering responses, we're reminded that a great community comes together not by accident, but because we care about members, about the work, about each other. In our interviews with employees — from member services to directors and line crews — we learned that the MPE staff is a very thankful bunch this year. Here's why:



Helen Sedlar

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

"I'm thankful that MPE is so deeply committed to our community. Through programs like educational scholarships, energy rebates, and the BOOST assistance program, we're helping local families improve their quality of life. It's rewarding to be part of an organization that genuinely invests in the people it serves."



Chris Baer

PURCHASING AGENT/WAREHOUSE MATERIALS HANDLER

"I'm thankful for the opportunity MPE has given me and to work with such a great team. I enjoy serving and helping others be successful within our community. Most of all, I'm thankful for my family and friends and the great place I live that allows me to enjoy the outdoors."



Leah McClain

DISPATCH/OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

"I appreciate my MPE work family. It's a joy to collaborate with individuals who are eager to go the extra mile for each other and our members. The MPE community came together and overcame the obstacles during the East Troublesome Fire in 2020, and I was so proud to be part of the effort. I was truly impressed by the ingenuity of our employees!"



Jennifer Vazquez

MEMBER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE/ENGINEERING CLERK

"I'm thankful to be part of a co-op that values safety, teamwork, and service. What I love most about Mountain Parks Electric is the strong sense of community and teamwork. It's inspiring to work for a co-op that values people, service, and connection just as much as providing electricity."



Drew Christensen

LINE CREW SUPERINTENDENT, KREMMLING/WALDEN

"I am thankful to have a steady career at MPE. The thing I enjoy here the most is the great group of guys on the line crew; they work hard and look out for each other. They make our work safe. My family and I love living in this area. It fits well with a lot of our hobbies, and we have added to that list since living here — my kids love skiing and can't wait for it to snow."



Shannon Greene

MEMBER SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE, WALDEN

"I love serving the Walden community and being in a place that allows me to live a quiet country life. One thing I didn't expect at MPE that turned out to be a positive surprise was to work with such great people and be such an important part of the community."

Youth DC Tour & Leadership Camp

MPE is a proud sponsor of two exciting youth experiences each year — the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and the Youth Leadership Camp.

D.C. YOUTH TOUR

The Washington D.C. Youth Tour is an all-expense-paid, week-long tour of our nation's capital, where one high school junior or senior from within Mountain Parks Electric's service territory will join students from Colorado and all across the United States to make memories that will last a lifetime.

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp is a weeklong adventure in Steamboat Springs. At the camp, youth develop leadership skills, learn about cooperatives, and have lots of fun.

To enter, local high school juniors or seniors can choose to submit a 1–3-minute video or a short essay explaining how they demonstrate concern for community, which is one of the seven cooperative principles.

The deadline is **January 8, 2026**. For more information and the application form, visit www.MPEI.com/Youth-Contest.

In 2025, Callie Freitag entered as a senior from West Grand High School. After her Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, she wrote MPE with a summary of her experience:

My trip to Washington D.C. was an absolutely incredible experience. It was life-changing and opened my eyes to a lot of leadership opportunities. It was an incredible experience, getting to meet people from other states in ways that I wouldn't have otherwise.

Here is a rundown of some of the highlights from each day and what I got to experience:

Monday, June 16:

I, along with 49 other students from Colorado, five Wyoming students, and seven chaperones, got a tour of the Denver Capitol. We spoke with President of the Senate James Coleman, and he allowed us to walk onto the Senate floor.

Tuesday, June 17:

Our first bus ride took us to Baltimore Harbor, and we got to see incredible architecture and beautiful scenery. We watched the Colorado Rockies BEAT the Washington Nationals!

Wednesday, June 18:

We headed to the United States Capitol, which is more beautiful in person than it ever will be in pictures. The day also included the Library of Congress and a dinner boat cruise.

Thursday, June 19:

It was beautiful to walk through the grounds of remembrance of the events on September 11, 2001.

Friday, June 20:

Inside the National Archives, we saw the U.S. Constitution and many other historical documents. We saw the Washington Monument, got lunch from food trucks, and visited the Air and Space Museum.

Saturday, June 21:

We visited the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. The Vietnam Memorial was amazing because our supervisors connected us to someone on the wall, whether that was someone with the same last name or someone from the same town.

I was blessed to have had a veteran named Kenneth Lee Freitag, who was a veteran in the Navy. He passed away on May 2, 1966, but it was a beautiful way to recognize these veterans on a personal level.



Prepare Your Home for Winter & Use Less Energy

As temperatures drop, weatherization is one of the most effective ways to lower your energy bills and keep your home comfortable through the winter.

WEATHERIZATION MEANS:

- ☐ Sealing up drafts
- ☐ Improving insulation
- ☐ Fixing areas where warm air escapes and cold air sneaks in

SIMPLE UPGRADES:

- ☐ Adding weather stripping
- ☐ Sealing cracks
- ☐ Insulating your attic



Even simple upgrades can make a noticeable difference in both comfort and savings.

Sustainable Grand is here to help Grand County residents make smart, high-impact improvements. From free online tips and resources to hands-on workshops, they are your go-to resource for learning how to prepare your home for winter. During a home energy assessment, the Sustainable Grand team helps identify where your home is losing heat and provides quick DIY fixes or can easily connect you with a contractor to get the job done. They can also connect you with local programs where qualifying individuals can save money to implement improvements.



Want to learn more? Sustainable Grand has a free upcoming Weatherization Workshop at Simple Coffee in Fraser on Thursday, December 4, at 5:30 p.m. You will gain practical, easy-to-use strategies for reducing energy waste this winter.

Take control of your comfort and your utility bills this season.

Learn more at sustainablegrand.org.

WEATHERIZATION WORKSHOP

Thursday, December 4, 5:30 PM | Simple Coffee Co., Fraser

Save Money This Winter with a Heat Pump—Rebates Available

Heat pumps heat your space by moving air around instead of generating new heat, using significantly less energy than central heating or furnaces.

Upgrading your home with this energy-efficient appliance could decrease your energy use, which could save you money on your electric bill.

MPE offers rebates up to \$2,000 on qualifying heat pumps.

Learn more about heat pump rebates at <https://mpei.com/heat-pump-rebate>



Annual Meeting and Director Elections scheduled for May 2, 2026

The 2026 Annual Meeting date has been set for May 2 at Middle Park High School (795 North 2nd Street in Granby). Director elections for District 2 and District 5 will take place at the Annual Meeting.

Registration and breakfast will begin at 8 a.m., and the business session will begin at 9:15 a.m.

In-person balloting will be available during the business portion of the Annual Meeting for members who have not voted by mail. Balloting will cease no earlier than 10 minutes past the time the meeting is called to order.

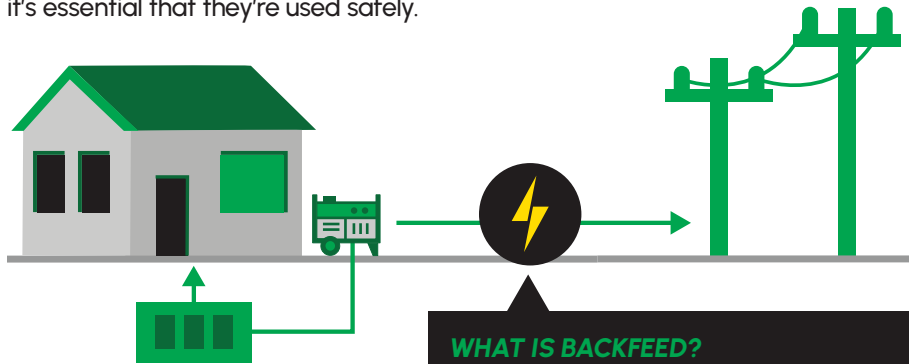
Directors serve a 4-year term and are elected from specific geographic areas (districts) within MPE's service territory. District 2 includes most of Winter Park and parts of Fraser on the west side of Highway 40. District 5 includes Grand Lake and the surrounding areas.

Visit [www.MPEI.com/2026-Director-Elections](https://www.mpei.com/2026-Director-Elections) for a link to the Director Districts Map and for updates on the 2026 director elections.

If you're unsure of what district you're in, feel free to call our Member Service Representatives at 970-887-3378.

Avoid Dangerous Backfeed— How to Use a Generator Safely

As backup power sources generators can provide comfort during outages, but in order to protect you and our crews, it's essential that they're used safely.



HOW DO I PREVENT BACKFEED?

A professionally installed transfer switch is the best way to prevent backfeed. Transfer switches distribute energy from a generator to your home safely.

WHAT CAUSES BACKFEED?

Plugging your generator into a wall outlet, using homemade or unapproved transfer switches or not isolating circuits from the utility grid can all lead to backfeed.

WHAT IS BACKFEED?

Backfeed happens when generators are not properly connected. Electricity is sent back into the utility lines and is **extremely hazardous** for lineworkers trying to restore an outage. Even a small generator can seriously harm a utility worker.

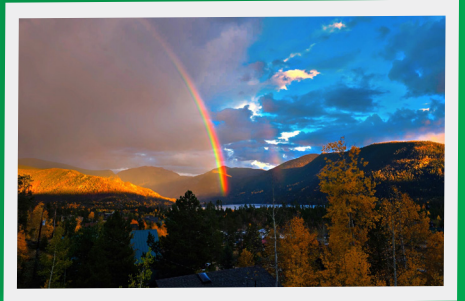
ADDITIONAL SAFETY TIPS:

- Use extension cords that match the generator's amperage.
- Keep generators dry and well-grounded.
- Only use your generator outdoors in a well-ventilated area to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

Enter our outdoor photo contest, win prizes!

We live in a beautiful place, and often catching a breathtaking photo is just being in the right place at the right time (with your camera or smartphone).

MPE lineman Kevin Baty looked up while working at a job site in Grand Lake recently and captured this rainbow.



Send us your best seasonal outdoor shots for a chance to be featured in our next newsletter.

Winners will be selected monthly and, in addition to social media tags and promotion, will be entered to win a \$500 gift certificate to B & H Photo.

Lucky for you, since Kevin is an MPE employee, he isn't eligible to win the contest.

Visit tinyurl.com/mpphotocontest or scan the QR code to submit your photos! And for complete rules. Photos must be received by the 20th of each month.



2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN



Applications are open for MPE's 2026 Scholarship Program. The deadline to submit the application and attachments is February 12, 2026.

There are three scholarship categories – Academic, Trade School, and Electric Industry. Each provides single-year scholarships, ranging from \$2,500 and up to \$10,000, paid from MPE's unclaimed capital credits fund. They are available for traditional (enrolling in college directly following graduation from a high school within MPE's service territory) and non-traditional students.

Award recipients are determined by a scholarship committee. The criteria include how compelling and impactful each applicant's required essay is, along with academic performance, community involvement, and work experience.

Scholarship awardees will be recognized at the Annual Meeting, scheduled for May 2, 2026, at the Middle Park High School auditorium.

In 2025, there were 28 scholarships awarded, ranging from \$2,500 to \$4,000. The group included those going into a wide range of fields that include aerospace engineering, veterinary science, several in various medical professions, agriculture, sports medicine, and business. Two Trade School Scholarships were awarded, one to a student starting a program in diesel technology and another entering a cosmetology program. **Apply online or get more information at www.MPEI.com/Scholarships.**