

PLUGGED IN

MOUNTAIN PARKS ELECTRIC, INC.

John Butler's Career Explorations Lead Him to Linework

Hard work and determination helped John Butler navigate being a busy teenager while searching for what future career might suit him best. In the end, lineman seemed to check all his boxes. With two summer's worth of hands-on experience as an MPE operations intern along with an electric industry scholarship from MPE, he has a leg up toward earning an electric lineworker degree at Colorado Mesa University.

John said while growing up, he was encouraged to explore different careers until he discovered his passion. His resume is proof he took that advice to heart, earning as much work experience as a student growing up in Kremmling possibly could. Along with the lineman internships, he was also a lumberyard worker, meat packer/cutter, electrical apprentice, construction worker, and to top it off, a business owner. Starting in April 2020 and throughout his high school years, John ran Butler Enterprises to "help the community with less expensive lawn care," he says on his resume. "I also weld trailers, horseshoes, and much more."

When asked what advice he would give students who may not know what career to pursue, John passed along the tip to try different jobs and experiences.

"I worked a variety of jobs because I wanted to see what I enjoyed and what I didn't. Even when I found jobs or trades that weren't the right fit for me, I still learned valuable skills."

He said this process led him to discover his passion for linework. "I realized it was a career where I could make a difference in my community," said John.

MPE's Kremmling Crew Foreman, Chase Gaines, is confident John will make the most of his scholarship. "He paid attention to safety protocols, asked thoughtful questions, and approached every task with a positive attitude," said Gaines.

MPE's scholarship program and applications have opened for 2027, with a deadline of February 5, 2027. Visit www.MPEI.com/Scholarships for more information and to apply.



John Butler in his second week as a summer intern with the Kremmling line crew helped to complete a pole change-out near Williams Fork Reservoir.

MPE has been doing more outreach to local high school students regarding the career opportunities in line work. The paid summer internship program with the operations department is promoted each spring to local high school students. Applications are encouraged for those who are curious, hard-working, and who want a behind-the-scenes look at how your community is powered. MPE is also coordinating with area high schools on a linemen career informational day to be held in November for interested students.



OUTDOOR PHOTO CONTEST

Photo of the Year

Members who attended our September 2 Member Appreciation Event voted for the Outdoor Photo Contest Photo of the Year from among the monthly winners, and Chuck Ambrose's photo of the Continental Divide from the top of Mary Jane earned the most votes and the title. Congratulations, Chuck!

He earned a \$500 gift certificate to B&H Photo.

Check out page 4 to see September's winner and learn how you can enter your photos!

MPE Rebate Program **Mission Accomplished!**

The 2026 MPE rebate program was a huge success and is now closed. For the rest of this year, we will provide rebates for projects that **started before October 7, 2026**. To qualify, members must submit proof of purchase or a contract dated before October 7, 2026, using the online rebate request forms at [MPEI.com/Rebates](https://mpei.com/Rebates).

The one exception will be for rebates to control electric load — timers for heat tape and ETS heaters. This rebate will continue to be funded.

If you have questions, please contact Megan Moore-Kemp at 970-887-7051 or mmoore-kemp@mpei.com.

We are proud of what our rebate program achieved this year. It helped members lower their costs through energy-efficiency and electrification projects. We provided more than twice as many heat pump rebates as the previous year, increased the number of EV charger rebates, and funded more energy audits than ever before.

Watch for updates about our 2027 rebate program in the next few months.

SIGN UP FOR OUTAGE NOTIFICATIONS AND RESTORATION UPDATES

Receive outage notifications and restoration updates by text message or email through SmartHub. Need help getting set up? Call MPE at 970-887-3378, or stop by an upcoming Coffee with MPE event in Kremmling or Granby/Hot Sulphur Springs. We'll be happy to help. Visit [MPEI.com/Events](https://mpei.com/Events) for details.



Youth Contest 2026: Local High School Students Share Their Experiences

Three local high school students had the opportunity to experience travel and leadership development over the summer, courtesy of Mountain Parks Electric (MPE).

Jessica Kohlwey, of Middle Park High School, won MPE's Youth Contest to earn a weeklong trip with the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour.

Clayton Utley, of North Park High School, and Wilson Jones, of Middle Park High School, represented MPE at the weeklong adventure at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYCL) at Glen Eden Resort north of Steamboat Springs.

All three students returned with memories and new friends from across Colorado and from the nation. They shared

some highlights from D.C. and CYCL in hopes that more students will consider entering MPE's Youth Contest.

The Youth Contest for 2027 is now open for applications. Area students who will be juniors, seniors, or recently graduated in summer of 2027 are eligible to apply via a short essay or video submission. **The deadline to apply is January 15, 2027. Find out more at [MPEI.com/Youth-Contest](https://mpei.com/youth-contest).**

These youth trips are funded from MPE's Unclaimed Capital Credits (UCC) Fund, not from member rates. Although the UCC Fund is limited, it provides donations and support to area organizations and schools, with many programs supporting youth education and development.



Jessica Kohlwey

Washington, D.C. Youth Tour June 15-20, 2026

Jessica joined approximately 50 students from across Colorado for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, which included a week of exploring Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Highlights included visits to Fort McHenry, Capitol Hill, the National Air and Space Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, and the National Archives.

One of Jessica's favorite days included seeing the White House and touring several national memorials. She especially enjoyed exploring Smithsonian museums with new friends from across the country.

"I saw some of our country's most important historical documents," she said. Reflecting on the trip, Jessica said she returned home with unforgettable memories, new friendships, and a greater appreciation for American history and the opportunities electric cooperatives provide.

Clayton Utley

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 12-17, 2026

Clayton was recognized at the CYCL Banquet with an Exemplary Leadership Award.

"I truly have no idea why exactly they picked me," he said. "I can only guess that they noticed my kind and outgoing nature and saw how I included others in our group." He also believes his enthusiasm and willingness to participate in every activity may have played a role.

His favorite part of the week was the birds of prey presentation, and he said he will not soon forget the support campers showed one another during the talent show. Reflecting on how the camp changed his perception of MPE, Clayton said, "Camp really allowed me to realize that instead of Mountain Parks Electric just being the electric company in town, it is individual people that I now know and look up to for what they do in the industry."

In closing, he said CYCL is an opportunity for everyone and that "there are no excuses not to try."

Wilson Jones

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 12-17, 2026

Before camp, Wilson felt a mix of excitement and nervousness. Soon into the first day, he said those nerves had quickly faded as campers connected with one another right away.

His favorite part of the week was the tour of the coal-fired power plant in Craig. Wilson said he has always been interested in how electricity is generated and enjoyed learning more about the process. He was especially impressed by the speakers and the turbine models. Looking ahead to college, he is even considering a degree in electrical engineering. "Working in the power industry has always intrigued me. Just 100 years ago, people were living off lanterns," he said.

Wilson plans to encourage his classmates to enter the 2027 Youth Tour Contest. "You may not be excited about it beforehand. You may be nervous. But it will be the highlight of your summer, and maybe even your year. Trust me, you won't regret it!"

[MPEI.com/Youth-Contest](https://mpei.com/youth-contest)

Enter now for 2027's trips.
Deadline is January 15, 2027.

Enter Our Outdoor Photo Contest, Win Prizes!

Send us your best seasonal outdoor shots for a chance to be featured in our next newsletter, on social media, and possibly in a future MPE photo calendar.

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

Visit tinyurl.com/mpephotocontest or scan the QR code to submit your photos!

Photos must be received by the 20th of each month.

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTO

Congratulations to Robert Kaslik for capturing the Photo of the Month for September's Outdoor Photo Contest. This great moment of a cow and calf moose is one of the many amazing sights our service territory has to offer in spring and summer.

MPE in the Community

See our upcoming events at MPEI.com/Events



MPE MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY



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