

# JACKSON ENERGY



WORKING FOR YOU



jacksonenergy.com

*Whatever it takes:*

## Powering life, from a lineworker's perspective

**M**y name is Marty York, and I'm one of three district operation supervisors and one of 49 lineworkers at Jackson Energy who work every day in all weather conditions to make sure our community members have the power to live their lives. I love my job. It's hard work, but it's very rewarding. I hope this will give you a better look into what we face and more importantly, why we do it.

### The danger

A lot of people know linework is dangerous because we work near high-voltage electricity. Move just the wrong way or lose focus for a split second, and it could be deadly. You have to be aware of your surroundings and the safety of the person next to you. We often work on energized power lines, and you can't always tell they are energized by just looking at them. You're working with an element of danger that requires concentration, and there is no margin for error. The environment compounds the pressure, because you usually need power most when the weather is at its worst. I'm often working in storms with rain, wind, extreme heat and cold, in the dark, or on the side of the road next to

fast-moving traffic. Yes, it's dangerous, but that's what we're trained to do.

Many may not realize it, but we undergo years of training before we can officially be called a lineworker. We typically start as an apprentice, helping crews with tools and keeping job sites safe, then we transition to second class lineworker status. The apprenticeship program typically spans four years. After more than 7,000 hours of training under our belts, we then transition to first class lineworker status—that's when we're considered officially trained in our field.

But the education is ongoing. Lineworkers continuously receive training to stay mindful of safety requirements and up to date on the latest equipment and procedures.

### The physical demand

The daily expectations of a lineworker are physically demanding, but you won't hear any of us complain about that. I know what I signed up for—loading heavy materials and climbing up poles



Lineworker is ranked as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the country. The lineworkers at Jackson Energy work rain or shine, in often challenging conditions, to ensure you have reliable electricity. This column was written by Marty York, one of our many dedicated lineworkers. Photo: Lisa Baker

and in and out of buckets. A lot of times, we go places the trucks can't, so I might be hiking through the woods loaded down with 40 pounds of personal protective equipment. But that's the job. Most of us are just glad to be outside.

### The sacrifices

There are some sacrifices to being a lineworker. I'm often first on the scene of an emergency, seeing things that are devastating like car accidents, structure fires and damage from severe storms. You don't know what type of situation you're going to face or when you're going to face it. We get calls all hours and in the middle of the night. I've missed

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**Lisa Baker, Editor**

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# Thank a lineworker

All of us at Jackson Energy are dedicated to improving the quality of life in the communities we serve, and no one works harder toward that goal than our co-op lineworkers.

It's a marvel of this era that electricity is a given. Thanks to co-op leaders of previous generations, we have a system in place to serve you. Our lineworkers play a critical role in making sure Jackson Energy's infrastructure is built and maintained so that we can consistently provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity for our members.

America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of each April as National Lineworker Appreciation Day, and on April 8, Jackson Energy will honor these hardworking individuals who often face challenging conditions and rough terrain to keep the lights on. We are proud to recognize our 49 lineworkers who maintain more than 5,830 miles of power lines in our service territory.

Our lineworkers' efforts and sacrifice are plain to see, but you may not realize the amount of training and study it takes to become a lineworker in the first place. It's about a four-year process to advance from an apprentice to first class line technician. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication and, equally important, a sense of service and commitment.

We stress safety every day at Jackson Energy—it's our top priority. When working with electricity, diligence and professionalism are absolute necessities. That's why the lineworkers who work to restore and maintain your power never stop training. In conjunction with our statewide association, Kentucky Electric Cooperatives, lineworkers are always learning and are held to professional standards to keep everyone safe.

Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining infrastructure that's critical to our electric system, lineworkers are Jackson Energy's first responders, and they're always ready to get the job done, day or night.

In honor of National Lineworker Appreciation Day, we invite you to take a moment to thank lineworkers for everything they do. Use #ThankaLineworker on social media to show your support.

By President & CEO  
Carol Wright



# Student leaders visit Frankfort



Jackson Energy delegates visit the state Capitol during the Frankfort Youth Tour. From front left are Addison Jones, Clay County; Rebekah Jones, Jackson County; Virginia Jones, Jackson County; and Emily Lutes, Lee County. From back left are Olivia Messer, Clay County; Preslee Cundiff, Lee County; Natalie Sandlin, Jackson County; and Tapanga Wood, Jackson County. Photo: Tim Webb

High school juniors representing Jackson Energy visited Frankfort in February and learned about state government and the history of our commonwealth through the Frankfort Youth Tour program.

They visited the state Capitol and the Kentucky Capitol Annex Building, where they heard presentations by Gov. Andy Beshear and Secretary of State Michael Adams, who kicked off the 2024 Co-ops Vote campaign.

Joe Arnold, Kentucky Electric Cooperatives vice president of strategic communications, discussed the history and dynamics of electric cooperatives and how they impacted the livelihood of our ancestors—the farmers who banded together to bring electricity to rural America.

Also, as part of the youth tour, the students heard from Rep. Samara Heavrin, who was formerly a youth tour participant.

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a lot of holidays, soccer and volleyball games and family dinners, but my family is very supportive, and it pays off in the end. We make sure there is nothing standing in the way of helping our friends and neighbors get back to normal life.

### It's worth it

One thing that makes this job worthwhile is the camaraderie. My co-op is my second family, and the line crews are a brotherhood. In this work, you have to depend on the person beside you in life-or-death circumstances. It's a culture of trust, teamwork and service. It's all about keeping the teammate beside you safe and the lights on for everybody else.

I take a lot of pride in my work. Even when it's cold and wet, I know I'm working to keep people warm. There's a lot of satisfaction in hearing someone

yell "thank you" from the window after the lights come back on or seeing people flipping the light switches on their porches after an outage is restored. No matter how tired I am or how long I've been working, that feeling always makes it worth it.

Jackson Energy and its employees—including myself—are members of this community. We live in the same neighborhoods. We shop at the same stores. Our kids go to the same schools. If your lights are off, there is a good chance ours are off, too. So, you can trust that we are doing our best to get the lights back on as quickly and safely as possible—so you can get back to normal life.

Beattyville District Operations Supervisor Marty York works to restore service during an outage Christmas morning. Photo: Dennis Roberts



# LINEMAN TRAINING CENTER Scholarship Application



Jackson Energy Cooperative is proud to offer one full scholarship for the Lineman Training Center at Somerset Community College



**Applications must be received at the Jackson Energy Office  
or submitted online by May 31, 2024**

Applicants must complete this form or apply online to be considered for the scholarship. The scholarship amount will not exceed \$4,200.

1. Applicants must be at least a senior in high school.
2. Applicants shall enroll in the Somerset Lineman Training Center and begin the program by October 2024. The applicant chosen for the scholarship shall also acquire their CDL permit before beginning the program.
3. Applicants, their parents or legal guardians must be Jackson Energy members and their primary residence or business served by the cooperative.
4. Students who apply for the scholarship will be required to interview with a selection committee consisting of Jackson Energy personnel.
5. Scholarships will be paid directly to Somerset Community College—Lineman Training Center.
6. Applicants must not be a member of the immediate family of an employee or director of Jackson Energy. Immediate family is defined as a spouse or a child of an employee or director.
7. Applicants shall not be previous winners of the Jackson Energy Scholarship No-Essay Contest.
8. Entries must be legible. Any entry that is not legible will be disqualified.

Applicant's name:

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Name of person (and relation if applicable) on the electric bill:

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Account #:

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Date of birth:

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Address:

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Phone number:

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Email address:

---

Applicant's signature:

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Complete application and return by mail  
or APPLY ONLINE at  
[jacksonenergy.com/scholarship-programs](https://jacksonenergy.com/scholarship-programs)

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