

Program information and application instructions

PowerUp Youth Leadership Program

2026-2027 School year

Application Deadline:

Sept. 14, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.

West River Electric is excited to provide this leadership class to all 2026-2027 high school Juniors and Seniors who want to gain a better understanding of cooperatives while enhancing their leadership skills in a fun, engaging and challenging way. The heart of the program includes two PowerUp sessions help in the fall and spring. These sessions are designed to help young adults learn more about the cooperative business model, electrical safety, network with peers, explore career opportunities and hear from industry and local experts on their leadership and personal growth journeys. These two sessions will be held on school observed Native American/Columbus Day and Martin Luther King Day. In the event of inclement weather, a make up session will be held on a later date. Program days will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Scholarships may be available to students who go above and beyond and attend all required sessions, as well as all-expense paid traveling opportunities. These trips include a three-day trip to Youth Excursion in Bismarck, N.D., in July 2027 and a week-long trip to Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., in June 2027.

1200 W Fourth Ave | PO Box 412
Wall, SD 57790
605-279-2135
3250 E Hwy 44
Rapid City, SD 57703
605-393-1500



Dear Applicant:

We are thrilled that you have taken the initiative to power yourself and apply for the PowerUp Youth Leadership Program sponsored by West River Electric. 20 high school Juniors or Seniors across West River Electric's service territory will be selected to participate in the program.

Eligibility:

- Applicant must be a Junior or Senior during the 2026-2027 school year.
- Have an interest in furthering their leadership skills, communication skills, team building, gaining knowledge about cooperatives, and networking.
- Fully commit to power yourself with a fun, positive, open mind ready to accept everything the program will offer.

Student Commitments:

- Students are encouraged to attend our Member Appreciation Day in Sept. and our Annual Meeting in October. They are required to attend both program days (School observed Native American/Columbus Day and Martin Luther King Day.) In the event of inclement weather, a make-up session will be held a later date.
- Program days will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Students are responsible for transportation to and from the required sessions on the dates above.

Selection Process:

- All applicants will be reviewed by the PowerUp executive committee.
- Applicants will be notified by **Sept. 16, 2026**, on the status of their application.

Best of luck with your application! Please contact powerup@westriver.coop or call 605-393-1500 with any questions.

Sincerely,

The PowerUp Executive Committee



Student



Please ready carefully the following information and sign (student and parent)

- I will remain in the designated area and will not leave the premises unless arrangements are made with West River Electric staff and my parents.
- I understand that no alcoholic beverages or illegal substances will be allowed. If I am on medication prescribed by a physician, I will inform West River Electric staff.
- I will keep my cell phone silenced during the sessions.
- I understand that I have to complete/take part in all required activities to be eligible for trip and scholarship awards.
- I understand that to receive a scholarship, I must attend a post-secondary school upon high school graduation.
- By entering an event or program at West River Electric, you are entering an area where photography, audio and video recording may occur. Your entry and presence on the event premises constitute your consent to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded and to the release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction of any and all recorded media of your appearance, voice, and name for any purpose whatsoever in perpetuity in connection with West River Electric and its initiatives, including, by way of example only, use on websites, in social media, news and advertising. By entering the event premises, you waive and release any claims you may have related to the use of recorded media of you at the event, including, without limitation, any right to inspect or approve the photo, video or audio recording of you, any claims for invasion of privacy, violation of the right of publicity, defamation, and copyright infringement or for any fees for use of such record media. You understand that all photography, filming and/or recording will be done in reliance on this consent. If you do not agree to the foregoing, please do not enter the event premises.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian

My child has permission to attend and participate in all activities during PowerUp Youth Leadership Program sponsored by West River Electric Association. I understand that if my child does not adhere to the above rules, I will be called to come pick my child up from any activity. I also understand that if my child does not adhere to the rules and requirements of the program, they may not be eligible for trip and scholarship awards.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

School Consent Form

TO THE APPLICANT: Please give this form, along with your application, to your school counselor to complete the remainder portion of this form. They should give it back to you to send all materials to West River Electric.

COUNSELOR: I understand that this applicant must attend the program days (Native American Day and Martin Luther King Day.) School attendance credit will be granted for school time missed due to participation in this program. By signing below you agree to the terms and conditions set forth on this application by the PowerUp Youth Leadership Program.

Counselor Printed Name: _____ Counselor Signature: _____

Principle Printed Name: _____ Principle Signature: _____