



Making connections possible!

Meriwether Lewis Connect, LLC is world-class broadband backed by hometown service.

Our rural hometowns - areas other providers overlooked (sound familiar?) - need fast, affordable, reliable broadband for education, healthcare, community development and more.

This is why MLEC stepped forward to establish MLConnect and help build our communities for the future. MLConnect makes broadband an option for ALL MLEC members.

MLConnect offers residential speeds starting at 300 Mbps, phone service and business plans. Visit www.mlconnect.com to learn more!

Meriwether Lewis Connect, LLC is a non-profit, wholly-owned subsidiary of Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative.

MLEC is your source for *Power* and *Broadband* and striving to build brighter futures for those we serve.

- Member-owned. Not-for-profit.
- Committed to improving the quality of life in our communities.
- Safe, affordable, reliable electricity.
- Fast, affordable, reliable broadband.

No contracts. No data limits. No hidden fees.

The fastest, most affordable, reliable, 100% fiber broadband service in our area!



Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative 2022-2023 Scholarship Contest

Electric Cooperatives Connect

What you can win!

SCHOLARSHIPS

The girl and boy at each high school receiving the highest score will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. MLEC's overall winner* will win the Larry Stringer Memorial Scholarship (\$2000), and the opportunity to compete for additional scholarships at the statewide level.

WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

The student receiving the highest score at each school* will also win an expense paid sponsorship by MLEC on the week long Washington Youth Tour. (Plus, one Tennessee student participating in the WYT could win a \$10,000 scholarship!)

MLEC continually monitors COVID-19 and other outside factors. Prizes may change as needed if the WYT is cancelled.

Deadline

Ask your teacher about formatting your story, and their deadline. (All stories must be submitted to MLEC by **March 1, 2023.**)

Questions?

MLEC is here to help! Email power@mlc.com or call 931-729-3558 and ask for "Member Services."

**Home- and private-schooled students will be judged with the school they would attend if enrolled in public school. Trip winners and MLEC's overall winner must reside with an MLEC member.*

Important Info About MLEC

MLEC is a rural electric cooperative. We are not-for profit and member-owned.

MLEC is owned by those who use our electric service in Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lewis and Perry counties. We've been around since August 16, 1939.

A person becomes a member by paying a \$5 membership fee, agreeing to buy electricity from MLEC, and agreeing to comply with its rules and regulations.

Cooperatives were formed to distribute electricity in rural areas. No other company or organization would undertake the job because of the low population of the area and low profit margin.

Democratic member control puts our member-owners in the driver's seat because they elect the MLEC Board of Directors. MLEC Directors must be a co-op member. The Board of Directors is composed of 13 members, who make policies and serve as our governing body.

MLEC buys electricity from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) at wholesale rates and distributes it to MLEC members. TVA has no control over the cooperative other than requiring that it meet certain regulations and obligations of its power contract.

Open communication with our members is important. We use Twitter, Facebook, a mobile app, *The Tennessee Magazine*, newspapers, radio, and www.mlec.com to reach those we serve.

MLEC provides electricity and a wide variety of programs to our member-owners. Some are related to electricity, and others are part of our commitment to provide more opportunities and build brighter futures.

MLEC Involvement & Programs

ENERGY RIGHT PROGRAMS

In partnership with TVA, MLEC has a variety of programs to help members make smart energy decisions and save money with heat pump advice and financing, energy workshops, and more. Visit www.mlec.com for details.

FREE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Consultations for commercial and industrial accounts on wiring designs, power factor recommendations, heating and air conditioning, lighting, and energy audits are available.

AIR SEALING AND HOME INSULATION PROGRAM

Some of the biggest energy thieves and money wasters in your home are leaky spots and inadequate insulation. MLEC provides up to \$750 in rebates to members for air sealing and insulation.

FREE ENERGY AUDITS (VIRTUALLY AND IN PERSON)

As a co-op we're here to save our members money, unlike investor owned utilities. Members can do FREE energy audits online to learn how to curb their home's energy diet. We also have an energy specialist on staff who can visit your home and answer energy questions.

MY POWER MY WAY

Pay what you want, when you want. Purchasing electricity before you use it allows you to control your budget. When your account runs low you can get an alert letting you know it's time to purchase more.

PROJECT HELP

A program designed to help our members who need temporary assistance with energy bills. Want to help? Add \$1 or more to your monthly bill or make a one-time donation.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS & INVOLVEMENT

We sponsor programs such as the Washington D.C. Youth Tour Short Story Contest, Louie the Lightning Bug, school grants, 4-H Camp, Youth Leadership Summit, student book program, poster contest, Little League teams and high school sports on local radio stations. We also speak to students about electrical safety.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT

We support community development associations and chambers of commerce, and we are involved with prospective businesses. MLEC works with TVA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development* Loan Program to help businesses expand and start-up. Examples include child care, health care, and job career centers. We've also helped with local airports, school facilities, and county buildings.

MLEC CARES

Our employees donate to buy Christmas gifts for children, help families who need a boost, benefit cancer victims, etc. We hold food drives and other drives to support neighbors in need. Employees also support local help organizations like United Way.

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Written for MLEC members, this magazine contains articles on everything from recipes to travel. It also serves as the main communication channel between MLEC and its members on programs, services and events.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS

As an MLEC member, you receive discounts at participating local and national businesses. MLEC members have saved over \$1 million on prescriptions, hotels, tickets and more!

FREE Wi-Fi

As a community support project, MLEC offers free wi-fi hot spots in each of the counties we serve.



(*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.)