



Delivering access to a better tomorrow!

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

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

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

MLConnect offers speeds starting at 300 Mbps for homes, as well as phone service and business plans. Visit www.mlec.com/mlconnect to learn more!

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

Meriwether Lewis works to ensure safe, low-cost, reliable power and broadband that creates a brighter, more connected future for our members and delivers access to a better tomorrow.



**No contracts. No data limits.
No hidden fees.**

**The fastest, lowest-cost, most
reliable, 100% fiber broadband
service in our area!**

Our Co-op Values

- Adaptable
- Caring
- Fair
- Friendly
- Knowledgeable



Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative 2025-2026 Scholarship Contest

“Energizing Every Moment”

What you can win!

► SCHOLARSHIPS

The girl and boy at each high school receiving the best 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 2, 2025.**)

Questions?

MLEC is here to help!
Email **benjamin.armstrong@mlec.com**
or call 931-729-7220.

**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 Meriwether Lewis

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. It was incorporated in August 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

MLEC HOME INSULATION AND ENERGY RIGHT PROGRAMS

One of the biggest energy wasters is a home with leaky spots and inadequate insulation. MLEC helps seal the deal with rebates. We also partnership with TVA to offer other programs and rebates to help members make smart energy decisions and save money with heat pump advice and financing and energy workshops. We also offer free in-person, virtual and DIY energy evaluations! 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.

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.

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.)

Scan Me

*for even more resources
on the Washington
Youth Tour!*

