



# EMPOWER

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

## STEP UP AND STAND OUT!

Leadership, learning, friendships and challenges. Energize your potential through the EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program!

This inspiring, interactive program will help you discover personal strengths, build & improve leadership skills, link up with peers & professionals, and explore career paths.



Have a chance at:  
**SCHOLARSHIPS!**  
**TRIPS!**

## FOUR FUN-FILLED, PEER-ADVISED PROGRAM DAYS FOCUS ON:

- Leadership Skills
- Cooperatives
- Personal Strengths
- Communication Skills
- Team Building
- Health & Wellness
- Electrical Safety/CPR
- Networking
- Career Options

## TO APPLY:

The 12-month program is open to upcoming juniors who are ready to commit to fully EmPOWER themselves with fun, positive, open minds. Applications are available from your school counselor or on the Sioux Valley Energy website. Submit via email to [Empower@siouxvalleyenergy.com](mailto:Empower@siouxvalleyenergy.com).

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**SIoux  
VALLEY  
ENERGY**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



# PROGRAM INFORMATION AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

## EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program

### 2025-2026 PROGRAM YEAR

#### Application Deadline:

4 pm, Friday, May 9, 2025

[empoweryouthleadership.com](http://empoweryouthleadership.com)

Sioux Valley Energy is excited to provide an opportunity for 2025-2026 high school juniors with a comprehensive understanding of cooperatives while developing their leadership skills in a fun, interactive and challenging way through the 8th annual EmPOWER Youth Leadership program. EmPOWER is a 12-month program that will commence with the presentation of participants at the SVE annual meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2025. The "meat" of the program includes four EmPOWER sessions held throughout the year that will allow students to learn about the cooperative business model, explore career options, network with other students and professionals, build and improve leadership skills through interactions with community leaders, industry experts and motivational speakers while working on personal growth. The program will then conclude the following June at the cooperative's 2026 annual meeting. Scholarships may be available for students who go above and beyond and attend the required sessions as well as all-expenses paid traveling opportunities for selected students. Those trips include a four-day trip to Youth Excursion at Bismarck, N.D., and also a week-long trip to Washington, D.C. in June of 2026. Upon completion of the EmPOWER program, participants will have the opportunity to form an EmPOWER Advisory Board. Your role will be to offer feedback to the Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors and help plan the following years EmPOWER program.

[www.siouxvalleyenergy.com](http://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com)

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Pipestone, MN 56164

Program Coordinator:

Chinelle Christensen,  
Sioux Valley Energy Culture and  
Training Development Strategist



Dear Applicant:

Congratulations on your decision to apply for EmPOWER! Forty high school juniors from across Sioux Valley Energy's service territory will be selected to participate in this 12-month program.

### Eligibility ~ Applicant must:

- Be a junior during the 2025-2026 school year.
- Have an interest in furthering their knowledge about cooperatives, Sioux Valley Energy and leadership skills.
- Receive approval by a high school principal and/or school counselor.
- Commit to fully EmPOWER yourself with a fun, positive, open mind ready to take in everything the program has to offer.

### Student Commitments:

- Students are encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2025. They are required to attend the four program days (school observed Native American Day/Columbus Day – Oct. 13, Veterans Day – Nov. 11, Martin Luther King Day – Jan. 19, Presidents Day – Feb. 16). In case of inclement weather, a make-up session will be held April 3.
- Program days will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Students are responsible for transportation to and from the required sessions on the dates above.

### Application Requirements:

- Fill out the online application at [www.empoweryouthleadership.com](http://www.empoweryouthleadership.com).
- Your school official must review your application and complete the School Consent Form. The COMPLETED application must be received by Sioux Valley Energy on or before 4 p.m. Friday, May 9, 2025.

### Selection Process:

- All applications will be reviewed by the EmPOWER Executive Committee.
- All applicants will be notified of the status of their application the week of May 19, 2025.

Good luck with your application! Please contact Chinelle Christensen at 800-234-1960 or email [empower@siouxvalleyenergy.com](mailto:empower@siouxvalleyenergy.com) with any questions. Let us EmPOWER each other and grow this program together!

Be EmPOWER-ed,

Chinelle Christensen  
EmPOWER Youth Leadership Coordinator





