



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.

Brought to you by



PROGRAM INFORMATION AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program

2026-2027 PROGRAM YEAR

Application Deadline:

4 pm, Friday, May 8, 2026

empoweryouthleadership.com

Sioux Valley Energy is excited to provide an opportunity for 2026-2027 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 9, 2026. 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 2027 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 2027. 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

Phone: 800-234-1960

108 N Heritage Road • PO Box 857
Brandon, SD 57005

23491 471st St • PO Box 216
Colman, SD 57017

1185 Ruud Trail, Suite #4
Hartford, SD 57033

1102 7th St. SE • PO Box 336
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 2026-2027 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 9, 2026. They are required to attend the four program days (school observed Native American Day/Columbus Day – Oct. 12, Veterans Day – Nov. 11, Martin Luther King Day – Jan. 18, Presidents Day – Feb. 15). In case of inclement weather, a make-up session will be held March 26.
- Program days will run from 9 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.
- 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 8, 2026.

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 18, 2026.

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

Be EmPOWER-ed,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chinelle Christensen".

Chinelle Christensen
EmPOWER Youth Leadership Coordinator



APPLICATION

We are pleased that you have taken the initiative to EmPOWER yourself and apply to take part in the EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program sponsored by Sioux Valley Energy.



- Applications forms MUST be filled out electronically.
- Everything should be typed out and then printed. The form should then be signed by the appropriate individuals. You can either mail in the application: Sioux Valley Energy/EmPOWER Attn: Chinelle PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017 or scan and email to empower@siouxvalleyenergy.com
- Forms need to be received by 4 p.m., Friday, May 8, 2026.

Student Name: _____
First Last

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Student Phone: _____ Student Email: _____

Age: _____ Sex: M F T-Shirt Size: XS S M L XL XXL XXXL Birthday (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

High School: _____ Grade during 2026-2027 school year: Junior

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Names: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Phone: _____

Emergency Contact (other than guardian/parent): _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____

Any medical condition(s) we should be aware of:

Please read carefully the following information and sign (student and parent).

STUDENT

As the participating student, I agree to follow these rules:

- I will remain in the designated areas of all activities and will not leave the premises unless arrangements are made with the Sioux Valley Energy staff and my parents.
- I will not invite any non-participants to come and attend any of the activities sponsored by Sioux Valley Energy.
- I understand that no alcoholic beverages or any illegal substances will be allowed. If I am on medication prescribed by a physician, I will inform the Sioux Valley Energy staff.
- I will keep my cell phone silenced during all sessions.
- I understand that my parents will be called to pick me up if I violate any of these rules.
- I understand that I have to complete/take part in all required activities to be eligible for the monetary leadership awards/scholarship.
- I understand that to receive the scholarship, I must attend a post-secondary school within two years of high school graduation.
- I understand that Sioux Valley Energy may take photographs of participants and activities. I agree that SVE shall be the owner of and may use such photographs relating to the promotion of future programs. I relinquish all rights that I may claim in relation to use of said photographs.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN

My child has my permission to attend and participate in all activities during the EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program sponsored by Sioux Valley Energy. I understand that if my child does not abide by the rules above, I will be called to pick up my child from any activity. In addition, I understand that if my child does not abide by the rules and meet all requirements of the program, they may not be eligible for scholarship dollars.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Questions? Contact Chinelle Christensen, EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program Coordinator, at 800-234-1960 or empower@siouxvalleyenergy.com



Please give a short essay answer to the following question

Why are you interested in EmPOWER, and what do you hope to get out of it?

How did you hear about the EmPOWER Youth Leadership program? _____

SCHOOL CONSENT FORM

TO THE APPLICANT: Please type your name below and then give this form, along with your application, to your school counselor, who will complete the remainder of this form and mail all materials to Sioux Valley Energy/EmPOWER, Attn: Chinelle Christensen, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017 or email to empower@siouxvalleyenergy.com.

Applicant Name: _____
First Last

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School Phone: _____ Applicant's GPA: _____ GPA calculated on a scale of: _____

Recommendation: (Please check one):

- I recommend this applicant unreservedly I recommend this applicant with reservations Applicant not appropriate

I understand that this applicant must attend the four program days (Native American Day (South Dakota)/Columbus Day (Minnesota), Veterans Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' 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 EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program.

School Counselor Printed Name: _____

School Counselor Signature: _____

Principal Printed Name: _____

Principal Signature: _____