



# EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program

2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR

Application Deadline: 4:30 pm, Friday, May 1, 2020

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

Sioux Valley Energy is excited to provide an opportunity for high school juniors with a comprehensive understanding of cooperatives while developing their leadership skills in a fun, interactive and challenging way through the 7th 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 2, 2020. **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 2021 annual meeting. There will be scholarships available for students who go above and beyond and attend the required sessions as well as all-expense paid traveling opportunities for selected students. Those trips include a four-day trip to the Basin Electric power generation facilities in North Dakota and also a week-long trip to Washington, D.C. in June of 2021. 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.



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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

108 N Heritage Rd  
PO Box 857  
Brandon, SD 57005

47092 SD Hwy 34  
PO Box 216  
Colman, SD 57017

1102 7<sup>th</sup> St. SE  
PO Box 336  
Pipestone, MN 56164

Program Coordinator ~ Chinelle Christensen  
Phone: 800-234-1960 Email: [chinelle.christensen@siouxvalleyenergy.com](mailto:chinelle.christensen@siouxvalleyenergy.com)



## Program Information and Application Instructions

### 2020-2021 ADVISORY BOARD

**Emma Budden**

*Pipestone High School*

**Allison Sahr**

*Madison High School*

**Connor Matthies**

*Hartford High School*

**Abby Knobloch**

*Hills Beaver Creek High School*

**Kenzie Polasky**

*Brandon High School*

**Jada Lembcke**

*Sioux Valley High School*

**Lauren Tatge**

*Hills Beaver Creek High School*



Sioux Valley Energy  
EmPOWER Youth Leadership  
PO Box 216  
Colman, SD 57017  
empoweryouthleadership.com

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 2020-2021 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 guidance 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 2, 2020. They are required to attend the four program days (school observed Columbus Day — October 12, Veterans Day – Nov. 11, Martin Luther King Day – Jan. 18, Presidents Day – Feb. 15).
- Program days will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 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 4:30 pm Friday, May 1, 2020.

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, 2020.

Good luck with your application! Please contact Chinelle Christensen at 800-234-1960 or email [chinelle.christensen@siouxvalleyenergy.com](mailto:chinelle.christensen@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



**Please give a short essay answer to the following questions**

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

What does a cooperative mean to you?

What does leadership mean to you?

Can you commit to all four program dates?

How did you hear about EmPOWER?

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 turned off 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

*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 [chinelle.christensen@siouxvalleyenergy.com](mailto:chinelle.christensen@siouxvalleyenergy.com)



## 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 guidance 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 [chinelle.christensen@siouxvalleyenergy.com](mailto:chinelle.christensen@siouxvalleyenergy.com).

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation:      I recommend this                      I recommend this applicant                      Applicant not  
(Please circle one)      applicant unreservedly                      with reservations                      appropriate

Applicant's GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA calculated on a scale of: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that this applicant must attend the four program days (Columbus Day, 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.

Guidance Counselor Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guidance Counselor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Signature: \_\_\_\_\_