



Young Women Explore Careers in Power Industry

On Oct. 2, Girl Power™ Camp provided young women from the Eastern Shore an opportunity to explore exciting and high-demand trade careers in the power industry through a free, one-day energy career experience. On Oct. 30, VMDAEC hosted a second Girl Power™ event at the Palmyra Training Center. All told, 126 students attended the two camps along with 175 volunteers and chaperones.

VMDAEC hosts these events annually, joined by its member cooperatives and generous industry partners. High school girls are invited to participate in the interactive, empowering and educational experience that highlights a variety of career options in the energy industry, including:

- line crew operations
- substation maintenance
- drone operations
- advanced metering and smart grid technology
- human resources
- communications, finance and other back-office careers
- fiber broadband service and installation

Instructors lead students through various activities in the classroom and outdoors. Participants learn about the importance of job safety, including how to safely climb a utility pole, operate a bucket truck and fly a drone. They learn about the co-op model and the large number of opportunities in the office and in the field where they could serve their community through a co-op career. Participants also get the opportunity to meet with industry human resources professionals to review career goals and discuss interviewing techniques.

"The electric cooperatives and their industry partners are committed to attracting more young women to cooperative careers," says Brian Mosier, president & CEO of VMDAEC. "Girl Power™ Camp is a great example of how community partnerships can help expand learning beyond the classroom walls and help students discover the many diverse career opportunities available to them."

The Girl Power™ Camp model has been so successful that several other states have hosted – or are planning to host – their own events, using the VMDAEC model to reach students across the country.

