

FEC® POWER

Source

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Christmas Traditions

Christmastime is full of family traditions. All families have some little something they look forward to around the holidays. Maybe it's something they've done all their lives, year after year. Maybe it's something young parents did when they were children and they want to revive that tradition in their own family unit. Maybe old traditions have run their course and there's a desire to start a new one.

Given this, I thought it would be appropriate to ask the employees at FEC about some of their Christmas traditions and see what fun and unique things they may do at home during this most special time of year. Below are some that I found most interesting. You might even want to start one or more of these with your family!

1. Go out to eat for breakfast on Christmas Eve morning with your family. Either pick your favorite breakfast restaurant to go to or cook up your kids' favorite breakfast!
2. Give each child and spouse a pair of pajamas to open up on Christmas Eve. These will be great for Christmas morning pictures (this was mine).
3. Let each child select a new ornament for the tree. Write your child's name and date on the ornament box or the ornament itself. It's neat to see each year how the ornaments change as they grow up and their interests change. When it is time for them to move and start their own family, they will have a good start on ornaments for their family tree!
4. Make cookies for Santa on Christmas Eve with your children and your spouse. This will be something that your kids will look forward to every year and remember all their lives.
5. Have a wrapping party. Since it's hard to wrap Christmas presents at home because your family members are always there, send the kids out to the movies with friends, invite some of your friends over and tell them to bring their gifts, wrapping paper, and some snacks. Have a fun-filled time wrapping all your gifts together.
6. Have a Secret Santa Pal. Choose one friend throughout the month of December to surprise with numerous gifts. Gifts don't have to be big or expensive, just fun and thoughtful. This is neat thing to do at work amongst coworkers.



Manager's Message...**Lance Adkins, GM**

Look Past Our Differences

Wow, where has the year gone! Each year seems to pass faster and faster with fewer and fewer goals accomplished. My folks told me time would seem to pass more quickly as I matured.

Thankfully the election “season” has passed, though I think we were spared some of the negative advertising and campaigning in our area due to New Mexico not being considered a serious “battle-ground” state. Still, it was difficult to avoid the

extreme negativity at the national level and the continued media focus on the extreme differences in opinion and ideas. Of course, it is these differences and our ability to overcome our differences that make our nation unique. Just this morning I see where President elect Donald Trump has been named Time Magazine’s “Person of the Year” for being elected President of the “Divided States of America.” I am troubled by the ongoing divisive spirit around the nation, and rioting in several cities, where a relatively small number of people have chosen to express themselves by destroying property and fueling mayhem.

Something we see too little of in the media coverage are those who are at work, day in and day out, fueling our nation’s economic engine, creating opportunity and quality of life unmatched in the rest of the world. Here at home, I am aware of community volunteers who work tirelessly through organizations like Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico, United Way, Salvation Army, and a number of faith-based organizations to meet the day to day needs of those in our community who are struggling financially and emotionally.

Our family has participated in Operation Christmas Child for many years, an effort to send a touch of Christmas Spirit to children living in challenging circumstances around the world. As we select items for our boxes we try to imagine the child who will receive the gift and hope it will bring joy to them. Of course, the small gifts themselves are not life-changing; perhaps knowing that others in world care enough to send a small gift will be encouraging. Another area project we support is the Christian Believers Education (CBE) organization, a faith-based group providing a number of outreach efforts, providing education and training opportunities for those seeking to improve their lives. In addition, CBE works to provide education and training to those who are incarcerated. Each year, CBE volunteers provide Christmas “stockings,”



*Child receiving shoebox gift through
Operation Christmas Child*

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many hand knitted, that participants then fill with small gifts and treats suitable for young children. These stockings are then made available to those who are incarcerated, so they will have something to give to their children at Christmas. I never really gave much thought about what someone in prison would do about gifts for loved ones.

My challenge to you this season of thanksgiving and Christmas and throughout next year, be open to looking past our differences and focus on those things that uplift and unite. We can choose how we act and react, we can disagree without being disagreeable. I need to remember that I have two ears and one mouth and should listen at least twice as much as I speak! Remember to thank those around you each day who work to make your community a great place to live and take time to spend time with family and friends as often as you can.

Thank you too, for the support and encouragement you give those who work for you here at Farmers' Electric! Merry Christmas!

Until Next Month,



Be careful with those space heaters! Running just one space heater, 12 hours a day, could add up to \$55 to your monthly electric bill!



Scholarship Applications Available Now

Farmers' Electric Cooperative will be awarding scholarships again this year through the Farmers' Electric Education Foundation. Scholarship applications may be obtained from area high school guidance counselors or from cooperative office locations in Clovis, Ft. Sumner, and Santa Rosa. Scholarship applications can also be requested by calling the Clovis office at 575-762-4466 or 800-445-8541 or by going online to www.fecnm.org. All cooperative members and their dependents are eligible to apply for these scholarships.

**Don't Delay! Deadline For
Applications Is February 1, 2017!**



This year there are two different scholarship forms. Be sure when requesting a form that you specify either the "Graduating High School Student Application" or the "Returning College Application." Both forms are available from any FEC office or are available to download from www.fecnm.org.

Merry Christmas!

**On behalf of the Board of Trustees
and the entire staff of Farmers'
Electric Cooperative, "Merry Christmas
and the happiest of New Years!"**

Farmers' Electric offices will be closed December 23rd, December 26th, and January 2nd in observance of the holidays.

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7. Watch Christmas movies together on the nights leading up to Christmas. Here are a few must-sees: Christmas Vacation, Polar Express, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, A Charlie Brown Christmas, Miracle on 34th Street, A Christmas Story, The Nativity Story, Elf, White Christmas, Home Alone, Die Hard, The Santa Clause, A Christmas Carol (Jim Carey), and of course, It's a Wonderful Life.
8. Give each child and spouse an ornament to open on Christmas Eve. Each ornament should represent something that happened during the year or a place the person traveled to.
9. Have a cookie swap party. This is a great way to fellowship with friends while enjoying numerous varieties of cookies.
10. Read the Christmas story and narrate the story with the nativity scene people. Example: Each figurine is passed around with everyone selecting a piece until all are gone. The Christmas story is read and when your character is named, you place it where it belongs (my personal favorite).

Traditions are great around Christmastime because they bond the family unit, they give everyone something special to look forward to, and they invite a shared past that children can pass on to future generations. Here's to a very merry and tradition-filled Christmas!

Youth Tour 2017



In 2017, FEC will again sponsor two area high school Juniors (summer after Junior year) on the week-long, Government in Action Youth Tour in Washington, D. C. Please call 800-445-8541 for more details on this exciting opportunity! We promise this will be a trip of a lifetime!

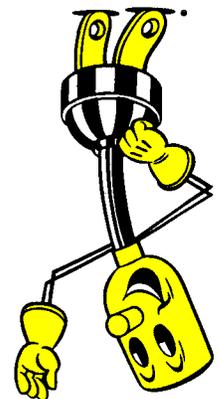
Attention

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2016. To avoid potential disconnection of services, please contact the Human Services Department for eligibility information for the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at 800-283-4465. Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2016 through March 15, 2017, if you qualify for LIHEAP and have no past due amount or are making the agreed upon payments.

Atención

Protección contra la interrupción de servicio de invierno comienza el 15 de Noviembre del 2016. Para evitar la posibilidad de desconexión, por favor de ponerse en contacto con el Departamento de Servicio Humanos al 1-800-283-4465, para obtener información acerca del Programa de Asistencia de Energía (LIHEAP) para las personas con bajos recursos. Si usted califica para el Programa de Asistencia de Energía y no tiene su cuenta con saldo vencido ni tiene un acuerdo de pagos fijos, su servicio no será desconectado.

“Owned By Those We Serve”



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