



Pee Dee EMC Sends Students to Basketball Camps

Two local middle school students shot hoops and ran drills at basketball camps hosted by two of the state's largest universities, thanks to Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships from Pee Dee Electric.

Destiny Robinson (pictured left), a student at Anson Middle School, attended the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp June 23-26 at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Destiny is the daughter of Katricia and Jermain Robinson of Wadesboro.

Noah Blake took to the court June 21-25 at the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Noah is the son of Mark and Nicole Blake of Hamlet and is a student at Hamlet Middle School.

"Pee Dee Electric is pleased to give these outstanding students a unique opportunity to experience life on a college campus and to receive instruction from two of the ACC's finest coaches," said Anne Edwards, marketing representative at Pee Dee Electric. "These camps develop fundamental skills that will help the young athletes excel both on and off the court. We're delighted to have them represent our co-op."

Destiny and Noah earned scholarships by completing an application

that included academics, community involvement and enthusiasm for sports. Only 56 students from across the state received Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships from North Carolina's electric cooperatives this year.

During camp, students stayed in dorms on campus and worked directly with coaches and athletes to hone basketball skills and practice working cooperatively with teammates. The staff of the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp included N.C. State women's basketball coach Wes Moore, and his coaching staff and players. Two-time NCAA national champion coach Roy Williams, his staff, and current and past Tar Heel basketball players led the Carolina camp. This is the 11th year North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives have sponsored young women to attend an N.C. State women's basketball camp and the ninth year the cooperatives have sent young men to the Roy Williams camp. The co-ops' partnership with universities and coaches provides a unique educational and athletic opportunity for our state's youth and keeps with Touchstone Energy's core values of accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community.

Pee Dee Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative whose goal is to provide reliable, dependable electric service for its members while focusing on value, quality customer service, and enhancing life in the communities we serve. Pee Dee's service area consists of Anson, Richmond, Union, Stanly, Montgomery, Moore, and Scotland counties. For more information about Pee Dee Electric, visit www.pdemc.com; Like them on Facebook at [PeeDeeElectric.NorthCarolina](https://www.facebook.com/PeeDeeElectric.NorthCarolina); or follow them on twitter.com/PeeDeeElectric.

How to Stay Cool during this Heat Wave

Although it's only been summer officially since June 21st, the Southern Piedmont area is in the middle of a heat wave this week. High temperatures above 90 degrees could cause problems with air conditioning units and may result in higher than normal utility bills.

The Better Business Bureau has advice for how you can stay cool during the hot weather. "Air conditioning units can be the most expensive equipment in your home," said BBB President Tom Bartholomy. "Given the large number of contractors and companies that provide air conditioning service, it is important to distinguish between the good and the bad. In the past 36 months, consumers have checked out air conditioning services with the BBB more than 165,000 times. However, consumers have only filed 283 complaints during the same time period because they are doing their research to find a company they can trust."

For emergency service - If your air conditioning unit breaks and you need emergency service, the BBB has these tips:

- Check out air conditioning contractors with the BBB. It only takes a few minutes to find a reliable company with a good track record for service.
 - Make sure that the contractor is licensed, bonded and insured.
 - Be wary of unsolicited offers and high pressure sales pitches for air conditioning systems, windows and roofing.
 - Don't fall for devices and products that promise drastic reductions in home energy costs.
- For high utility bills - High temperatures also mean high utility bills. "Many people go without air conditioning because they can't afford it," said Bartholomy. "Unfortunately, extreme heat can be deadly."

If you cannot afford to pay your utility bills, the BBB has this advice:

- Ask your utility company about an annualized billing plan to avoid spikes in your bills during extremely hot or cold months.
- If you are on a fixed income and have trouble paying your utility bills, contact your utility company to find out about emergency assistance plans.
- Get help. Nonprofit organizations like Crisis Assistance Ministry help low-income individuals pay their utility bills.

Home maintenance - The BBB has these tips for making your home more energy-efficient year round:

- Have your air conditioning system inspected and serviced each year.
- Check your attic, garage and basement to make sure your home is well-insulated.
- Clean or replace air conditioning filters on a regular basis.
- Install a programmable thermostat and keep your home at a set temperature.

For more information, please visit www.bbb.org or call the BBB toll-free in N.C. and S.C. at 1-877-317-7236.

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