

Titus Sheets Joins Sullivan County REC as Third-Year Apprentice Lineman

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) would like to welcome Titus Sheets, newly hired third-year apprentice lineman, to the co-op.

Titus is familiar with portions of our co-op's service territory, particularly in the Trout Run and Lycoming County area. He was previously employed by Everhart & Hoover Power Line Construction for five years, who we contract for construction work plan projects and make ready work involving pole replacements. Prior to joining Everhart & Hoover, he worked at his family's business, Sheets Garage, in Picture Rocks for 23 years.

The life of a contract lineman is especially straining. Normally, contract high voltage linemen travel across the United States working on large projects. Titus has traveled to Maine and numerous places across Pennsylvania. He is looking forward to employment close to home and working on a single distribution system.

Every electric company—whether that be a municipality, investor-owned utility (IOU), or cooperative—uses different operation procedures, rules, and safe work practices. Getting to know how our operations department works, and the safety measures the cooperative puts into place, will be his biggest learning curve.

Titus started at SCREC on August 31. Many members will remember this week being a constant fight against Mother Nature with severe thunderstorms rolling through our service territory. Only three days into his co-op career, Titus was out during the day working on outage restoration on Genessee Trail and around Rose Valley. As a third-year apprentice lineman, he was able to walk line, clear branches, open and close fuses with an extendable fiberglass hot stick, and perform switching to back feed power.

Titus's experience at Everhart & Hoover advanced him to third-year apprentice lineman classification. On his way to becoming a journeyman lineman with SCREC, he will have to complete extensive training, learn our safety program and high voltage distribution system, and attend hands-on training through the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association's Job Training & Safety program (PREA JT&S) lineman training schools.

SCREC requires all incoming linemen to complete a four-year apprentice training program known as the Power Delivery Program (PDP). Developed by Northwest Lineman College in Idaho and adopted by our CEO John Lykens, this lineworker certification program compliments on-the-job training which advances linemen from apprentice to journeyman classification through self-paced learning modules.

Each year, apprentice linemen must study ten learning subjects and pass a proctored test for each subject. After 12 months of on-the-job training and successfully completing a PDP module made up of ten subjects, the apprentice can progress to the next classification and onto the next module. Subjects include everything from transformer banking to proper grounding, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), knot tying, switching, SCADA and automation, basic rigging, electrical theory, OSHA, etc. The modules provide classes on subjects that may not be taught in the field. SCREC believes that class work complimenting on-the-job-training prepares a lineman to perform their job to the best (and safest) of their ability.

Not only will Titus have to complete PDP, but all cooperative linemen must participate in training courses held by PREA JT&S. These in-person training classes include basic, intermediate, and advanced rubber glove and sticking, chainsaw, basic climbing, underground, transformer, regulator, substation, metering, digger derrick operating, stringing and sagging, and winching schools.

Titus lives in Tivoli with his wife Brooke, four children Deegan, Gabriella, Rylan, and Colton, and their dogs, cats, and chickens. He's an avid fisherman—especially fly fishing—and enjoys riding his on/off road Suzuki motorcycle.

Please join everyone at SCREC as we welcome Titus to the co-op!



Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative would like to introduce Titus Sheets, newly hired third-year apprentice lineman, and his family to the membership. Please join us in welcoming them to the co-op.