

# BEACON

## *Comments from the CEO*

### A week in Washington: Amicalola EMC students make the most of the 2025 Youth Tour

In June, Amicalola EMC sent four of our area's brightest students on a weeklong trip to the nation's capital. This year was Georgia EMC's 60th—and largest ever—delegation of students to attend the Washington Youth Tour (WYT). Representing Amicalola EMC were Madelyn Davis (Gilmer), Gracie Gaitanoglou (Gilmer), Jack Tatum (Pickens) and Cash Williams (Gilmer). These four joined 112 high school students as they represented 38 different EMCs in Georgia.

Andy Paul, WYT Director and Public Relations Representative with Georgia EMC, said the 2025 Youth Tour was a huge success. Our own program coordinator, Kadie Shaw, echoed his statement and offered praise for his leadership.

"Coordinating the WYT with Georgia EMC is one of the highlights

of my job," says Shaw, "and I think I speak for many when I say we could not do it without a leader like Andy."

The Amicalola EMC delegates really enjoyed this trip of a lifetime. When asked to describe the 2025 WYT in a few words, some of their responses included life-changing, adventurous, influential and unforgettable.

One delegate said, "During this trip, I found that every single delegate had a divine calling bigger than themselves. They had passions and dreams. It changed my life to be able to hear about what they know God has called them to do. These people will one day change the world, and the Youth Tour was only the beginning."

Another recalled their time at Arlington Cemetery and said, "It



Todd Payne  
President/CEO  
Amicalola EMC

changed my perspective on the sacrifice and service

that the brave men and women of this country go through in order to keep us safe and free."

Tour stops that were most notable to Madelyn, Gracie, Jack and Cash were the national memorials: World War II, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Martin Luther King Jr., Jefferson, Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans, as well as the Smithsonian Institution and Arlington National Cemetery. Other highlights included George Washington's Mount Vernon and Capitol Hill, where they met and spent time with U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock.

### Apply for the 2026 Washington Youth Tour

The 2026 Washington Youth Tour is scheduled for June 12-19. The all-expenses-paid trip will feature visits to, and tours of, some of the United States' most iconic and historic venues, in addition to opportunities for high school student delegates to meet with many of our state's national leaders.

To learn more about the 2026 tour and to apply, please visit [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com), Community, Washington Youth Tour. If you have any questions, please contact Kadie Shaw at [kadies@amicalolaemc.com](mailto:kadies@amicalolaemc.com) or 706-253-5285.





KATHRYN GREEN



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# 2025 Washington Youth Tour

# Crew leader recognized for rescuing individual from tree-trimming incident



Anthony Lowman accepts Lifesaving Award from Amicalola EMC President/CEO Todd Payne and Georgia EMC Vice President of Training & Safety Harry Reeves.

**A** dangerous tree-trimming accident had a fortunate outcome thanks to the swift actions of Amicalola EMC Right-of-Way Crew Leader Anthony Lowman.

Lowman received a Lifesaving Award from Georgia EMC during the state association's annual meeting held on Nov. 10 in Savannah. On July 15, Gilmer County Fire & Rescue responded to a distressed call involving a man who had become entangled while cutting a tree. The victim had been left dangling nearly 40 feet in the air by his harness for almost two hours. The tree was in an area inaccessible to ladder trucks, so

Gilmer County Fire & Rescue called on Amicalola EMC for assistance.

Drawing on his specialized training, Lowman geared up, climbed the tree and safely brought the injured man to the ground, where he was treated by medical personnel and later made a full recovery.

"Amicalola EMC is incredibly proud of Anthony for his bravery and selflessness," said President/CEO Todd Payne.

Lowman is one of 20 EMC employees statewide honored this year for lifesaving actions in dangerous or potentially deadly situations.

## 2025 Service Awards

### 5 YEARS

Morgan Mullins  
Dennis Ramey  
Jackson Jones  
Michael Payne  
Alan Weaver  
Avery White  
Stephen Ramsey

### 10 YEARS

David Hollingshead  
Micah Walker  
Joshua Martin  
Jody Bennett  
Jonathan Farmer  
Jason Segers

### 15 YEARS

Donald Crittenden  
Leah Norrell

### 20 YEARS

Bobby Cook Jr.

### 25 YEARS

Kenneth Jones  
Wendy McKinney  
Robert Cox  
Chris Harlow  
Jarrad Parker  
Darrell Vick  
Nathan West  
David Abernathy

### Directors earning service awards

### 5 YEARS

Edward Tucker

### 35 YEARS

Kathy Burt  
Randall Ponder

# Play it safe: 10 dos and don'ts when using portable generators

**W**ith proper use and maintenance, portable generators can provide great convenience. However, when generators are used incorrectly, they can be extremely hazardous. In a 2022 report, the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated 85 U.S. consumers die every year from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning caused by gasoline-powered portable generators.

Here are 10 dos and don'ts to keep in mind when using portable generators:

1. **DO:** Install backup CO alarms.
2. **DO:** Always keep children and pets away from portable generators.
3. **DO:** Position generators at least 25 feet outside the home, away from doors, windows and vents that can allow CO to enter the home.
4. **DO:** Ensure your generator is properly grounded. Use a portable ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to prevent electric shock injuries.
5. **DO:** Use three-pronged extension cords that are rated to handle the load of the generator. Inspect extension cords for cuts, frays or other damage before use.
6. **DON'T:** Operate a generator inside your home or an enclosed (or partially enclosed) space. Generators produce high levels of CO, which can be deadly.
7. **DON'T:** Open windows or doors while the generator is running.
8. **DON'T:** Rely on generators as a



full-time source of power. They should only be used temporarily or in emergency situations to power essential equipment or appliances.

9. **DON'T:** Overload generators. They should only be used to power essential equipment. Make sure your generator can handle the load of the items you plan to power.
10. **DON'T:** Connect generators directly into household wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed. If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can back-feed along power lines and electrocute utility lineworkers making repairs.

While generators provide convenience during power outages, they can quickly become hazardous—even deadly—if improperly operated. Before you operate a portable generator, be sure to thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online, at <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office or by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (OASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

### (1) mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary  
for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-9410; or

(2) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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