

Youth represent SECPA at leadership camp

Aug. 20, 2009

LA JUNTA – Two area youth represented the Southeast Colorado Power Association this summer at the 2009 Colorado Electric Education Institute Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs.



Jade Meinzer and Jacob Irsik

Jade Meinzer and Jacob Irsik, both juniors from Edison High School in Yoder, were chosen by SECPA to represent the company at the July camp, which teaches participants about electric cooperatives, government, communication skills and leadership.

Both teens had to apply for the honor and were great representatives for SECPA, according to Jack Wolfe, Southeast's Chief Operating Officer. In fact, Wolfe said, Meinzer even earned extra honors at the camp. He was hired by the camp board – student representatives elected to their positions – to be the camp's general manager. In this position, he ran general session meetings, introduced speakers and served as a leader during the week.

Meinzer was also elected by all participants to return to the camp next year as one of two ambassadors representing Colorado. As an ambassador, he will be responsible for overseeing camp activities and campers, run small group meetings, participate in committee meetings and assist in keeping participants engaged.

Meinzer is the son of Harold and Jean Meinzer of Yoder. He is involved in student council, Matchwits, Knowledge Bowl and National Honor Society, as well as football, basketball and baseball. His extracurricular activities include 4-H and involvement in the annual Bob Telemosse Christmas Give-away in Colorado Springs, as well as a variety of other volunteer activities.

Irsik is the son of James and Belinda Irsik of Yoder. He serves as president of Edison's student body and is also active in Matchwits, 4-H, football, basketball and baseball. He is involved with a variety of volunteer activities through 4-H, including putting together Thanksgiving baskets for the community, cemetery clean-up and Christmas caroling.

Southeast Colorado Power Association will accept applications later this year for youth to attend the 2010 Youth Leadership Camp. Applications will be available at SECPA beginning in December.