



High Speed Internet... Delivered!

Our Serving Area is 100% Broadband Capable

You hear a lot of talk today about the national broadband plan - that there is a digital divide and that rural America is underserved. While there are still some areas that have been slow to bring about broadband technology, most of the rural telephone companies that we work with have done an excellent job at delivering high speed Internet capability. Pioneer is no exception! We have told you before that our area is 100% broadband capable, which it is. Recently that claim was tested, as one of our members placed an order for DSL Broadband. You see, our member, Sarah is among a small number of hardy folks that have decided to live "off the power grid." While living off the grid was not her first intention, the remoteness and the desire to experience nature and wildlife near her in her 100 year old cabin was very appealing. As an artist, her location provides inspiration for her pottery artwork.

When Sarah inquired about DSL Broadband, the obvious question came to mind...How will she run her computer and necessary modem/router? The answer was not as complicated as one might think. Sarah uses solar panels and a generator, which allow her to have basic lighting and the use of her computer. Intrigued, we asked if there were any challenges to living off the grid. Sarah said there are many challenges: the obvious

being that she has minimal power. "People expect to run all their appliances at the same time and that isn't something I can do," Sarah said she can only run one thing at a time and has very few modern electrical appliances. Sarah says she's "just gotten used to doing without some modern conveniences."

When asked if she was surprised about being able to get Broadband DSL in her area, Sarah said that she wasn't the least bit surprised. Her neighbors, who are also "off the grid," have Broadband DSL and pointed her in Pioneer's direction. Her experience during the installation was that everyone "knocked themselves out" to insure the DSL was installed.

Lastly, we wanted to know if Sarah expected that having Internet access would have any impact on her lifestyle. Sarah told us that she expects that her access to the Internet will be a huge benefit in many ways. She doesn't live in her isolated cabin because she is a "hermit or antisocial," she does it for the quality of life she gains. Sarah believes that her new Internet access will expand her ability to keep in touch too.



College Scholarships Available

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative is, once again, proud to contribute to and encourage individuals throughout our communities by funding a scholarship program. The Board of Directors has established a scholarship fund for individuals attending college during the 2011-2012 academic year. The number of scholarships awarded and the amount of each scholarship award will be determined by the Board.

In order to qualify, the applicant must be a member, or an immediate relative of someone who is a member, of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative. The immediate relative may be a spouse, son or daughter. The applicant's primary place of residence must be located within a territory served by Pioneer Telephone Cooperative. An applicant is eligible to receive Pioneer's scholarship a maximum number of two times.

The applicant must meet the following qualifications:

- be currently enrolled at, or applying for admission to, an under-graduate program in an accredited community college, four-year college or university, or vocational technical school;
- provide three letters of recommendation from individuals other than family members;
- provide legible copies of all high school and college or technical school transcripts;
- provide a copy of the applicant's latest SAT and/or ACT test scores.

Original copies of the scholarship application with the requested documents and a completed "open book" quiz (included with application) must be submitted on or before the deadline date of March 31, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. to the following address:

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative • Scholarship Committee

1304 Main St • PO Box 631
Philomath, OR 97370-0631

Application forms will be available in January at both the Philomath and Waldport business offices, local area high schools and online at www.pioneer.net. Applications may also be obtained through the mail by calling Pioneer's Administration Department at 541-929-3135. *Incomplete applications or those lacking the required documents will not be considered.*

Get an Inside Tour of Washington D.C.

How would you like to travel to Washington, D.C. this June to learn about the telecommunications industry and see our nation's government in action?

If you are a high school junior who would like to spend four special days on an "inside tour" of Washington D.C., then you should know that Pioneer Telephone Cooperative will be sponsoring one student to represent us and our rural serving area at the 2011 Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour, June 4 - June 8, 2011.



The Foundation's Youth Tour provides specially selected student representatives from rural areas a firsthand look at the booming telecommunications industry. It teaches students about government processes and gives them a memorable four days in our nation's capital, visiting famous historic sites and monuments. Some of these are: The Smithsonian Galleries and Museums, The National Cathedral, Capitol Hill, Arlington National Cemetery, Mt. Vernon, and more. On the tour, students will meet high school juniors from other rural communities across the USA and form special new friendships.

Student participants will be chaperoned by the Foundation for Rural Service staff and volunteers from several member telephone companies. Pioneer Telephone Cooperative will pay for the student's airfare, hotel, meals, transportation, ticketed events and all gratuities.

All high school juniors living within the Cooperative's serving area are eligible for selection for the Youth Tour by submitting an academic resumé to Pioneer. A committee will review the student resúmes and will then select a final candidate.

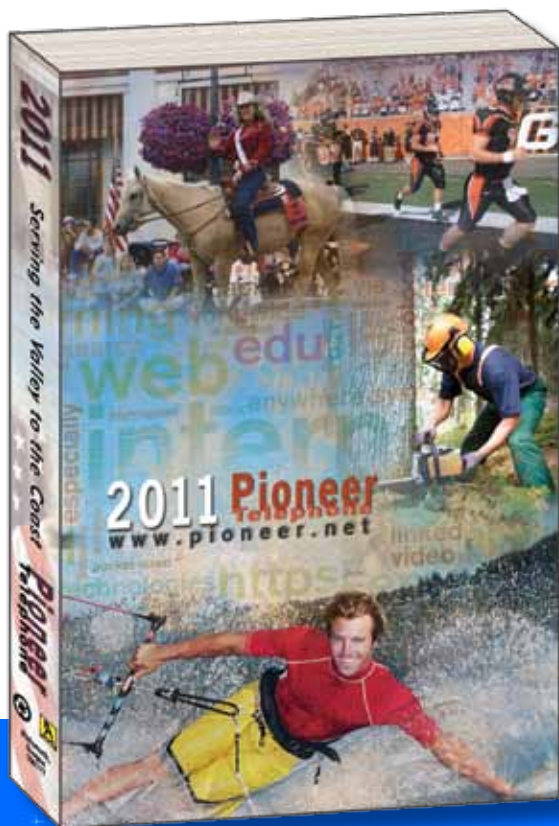
The student academic resumé must include the following information:

- grade-point average
- interests
- any work experience
- why the applicant would like to make this trip
- extracurricular activities
- honors and awards
- current plans for after high school

To apply, high school juniors must be living within Pioneer Telephone Cooperative's serving area and submit an academic resumé, which must be received in Pioneer's office by March 7, 2011. Send to:

Pioneer Telephone • Youth Tour Committee

1304 Main St • PO Box 631
Philomath, OR 97370-0631



In Your Mail Box Soon

You can expect to receive the 2011 edition of Pioneer's telephone directory in January. And, as always, a lot of hard work has gone into making the directory a valuable tool for our members.

The Pioneer Telephone Directory contains more than white and yellow page listings for our members and adjacent communities. There is a wealth of other useful information as well. Watch for it in your mailbox...coming soon!

Winter is Here...

With winter here, the possibility of power outages increases. Our local electric companies respond as quickly as they can. However, it may take them a while to restore your power.

Since cordless phones, VOIP and Cable phone service may **NOT** work during a power outage, we suggest that you keep a traditional non-powered phone in the house for these kinds of emergencies.

Please call us if you have any questions about your service.



Work Crews Battle the Elements to Keep Communications Going



For many of us, our high speed Internet service, or our telephone service is something we think of just once a month...when we receive our bill. Oddly enough, that is the way we want it. We say, "Leave the worrying about your service to us and just know that things are going to work!" However, we should also say that making things work means our highly trained personnel have to work in all kinds of conditions.

Recently, one of our first storms of the winter season brought snow and high winds to the area. Along with deep snow in the mountains where some of our cables run, Mother Nature also had new plans for a couple of large 3-4 foot diameter trees! While our cable was able to survive one of the trees falling against it, when the second tree fell, it was clear that the weight of the trees was going to win the day as our cable came down. Access to the site was difficult due to the heavy snow, but our crew was able to reach their destination by using a snowcat to climb the mountain. Once at the damage site, our crew began to restore the service while enduring falling snow, freezing rain and just good old-fashioned rain.

While major repairs like this are not required frequently as most of our infrastructure is underground, we never know when Mother Nature is going to throw us a curve ball. But when these things happen, please rest assured that our folks are out wherever they need to be, making sure that the next time you pick up your phone or go on-line, it just works!



1304 Main St. • P.O. Box 631
Philomath, OR 97370

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Information

PHILOMATH OFFICE

1304 Main Street
PO Box 631
Philomath, OR 97370
(541) 929-3135
(888) 929-1014

WALDPORF OFFICE

575 West Willow Street
PO Box 504
Waldport, OR 97394
(541) 563-3135
(888) 968-3135

REPAIR

(866) 929-1212

WEBSITE

www.pioneer.net

