



Meet Your SEC Employee: Lacey Palmore



**Staking Technician
8 years of service
Crewe Office**

By Jacob McCann, Director of Community Relations

When asked to describe her job, Lacey Palmore says, "It's the perfect combination of outside with just a little bit of inside, and that's what I love about it."

Palmore is a staking technician for Southside Electric Cooperative (SEC), working out of the Central office in Crewe. "I love being outdoors and meeting our members, but I also enjoy coming into my office at the end of the day to wrap up paperwork and plan for the next job and another experience," shares Palmore.

SEC's staking technicians are responsible for engineering and designing our distribution system, as well as planning upgrades to SEC's electrical system. Palmore, along with the rest of the staking engineer team, coordinates with members who plan on building new homes or want to make changes to an existing service. The team plans a route and provides estimated cost information. These responsibilities make Palmore's job essential to the Cooperative, not only due to the scope of work, but also for the initial interaction with the member. "We often serve as the face of the co-op," she says.

This responsibility is one of Palmore's favorite things about the job. "I really enjoy meeting the members, helping them understand our process and fulfilling their electrical needs," explains Palmore.

At the same time, this can be one of the most difficult aspects of her job as well. "I like to leave each staking job with both parties (SEC and member) satisfied with the outcome," explains Palmore. "This can be challenging, depending on the nature and the cost associated with the work to be done."

Palmore jokes, "Trying to please everyone is tough; however, I accept the challenge!"

Palmore was born and spent the first 14 years of life growing up in Farmville. Her mother's career as a United Methodist minister moved her family to Nottoway County, where she completed her high school education. She then went on to receive a bachelor's degree in business from Virginia Wesleyan College. Before her time with SEC, she worked in floral design and then at Piedmont Geriatric Hospital in Nottoway, assisting geriatric residents, and coordinating work orders, reports and records for the hospital's physical and power plants.

Palmore then applied for a position with SEC. "I started my career with Southside almost nine years ago as a CSR (customer service representative), working in the call center. Through helping people, I quickly realized the desk life wasn't for me," she explains. "I was approached about applying to become a staking technician. Feeling unsure about a path where I knew little, I accepted the position and began the apprenticeship program. I knew I had to learn the ropes and learn them well. As a lady in a field dominated by men, my work was cut out. Without a doubt, this is God's plan!"

Staking technicians, much like SEC's linemen, go through a four-year apprenticeship program when they begin their careers. Moving through the apprenticeship, they learn the skills needed to serve SEC members.

Palmore and husband J.T., a budget manager for the Department of Military Affairs, recently built a new home on their family farm in Blackstone. They have a 3-year-old daughter, Reese.

They enjoy spending time at the lake and being on the farm. “I have been around horses since I was a child. My dad and I used to raise and show horses, so they have a special place in my life,” shares Palmore. “My husband, whose second love to his family is bass fishing, makes sure we get lots of good time in on the water, too. Life is good!”

When asked what other hobbies she enjoys, Palmore laughs, saying, “I have a 3-year-old. Being a mom is my hobby!”

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