

FMEA 2026 FIRST KIDS' LINEMAN RODEO

CHIEF JUDGE: GERALD VARGAS, CITY OF WINTER PARK ELECTRIC UTILITY

PURPOSE

The FMEA Kids' Lineman Rodeo introduces children to the trade of linework through hands-on, kid-safe simulations. The event promotes electrical safety awareness, teamwork, and appreciation for the vital work lineworkers perform in their communities.

COMPETITION EVENTS

This event will run as a relay-style event. Child competitors will start at Station 1, move to Station 2, and finish with Station 3. Each child competitor will run the course while being judged on safety, skill, technique, and time. There will be one scoresheet per competitor, and all 3 events are scored as one. The top 3 competitors in each age group will be awarded a trophy and competitor t-shirt at the Welcome Reception immediately following this event on Friday, March 13, 2026.

- **Station 1 - Bucket Hoist Challenge** - Competitor will hoist/pull a grunt bucket on a handline to the desired height & weight of their age group. **Focus:** Control, safe handling, and teamwork.
- **Station 2 - Switch Opening & Closing with a 6' Hot Stick** - Competitor will be required to first close and then open a 600 amp disconnect using the eye on the switch. There will be a painted box on the ground the competitor must stay in during this event. **Focus:** Control, accuracy, and understanding switch operations.
- **Station 3 - Cart Pull** - Competitor will be required to safely and quickly pull a weighted cart to the desired footage of their age group. **Focus:** Strength, teamwork, and fun competition.

AGE DIVISIONS

- Lower Division: Ages 7-10, limited to 25 participants max, waitlist available
- Upper Division: Ages 11-14, limited to 25 participants max, waitlist available

RULES

1. All child competitors must be accompanied by a parent/guardian through the duration of the event.
2. All child competitors must report to the competition field at 4:45 pm on Friday, March 13, 2026.
3. The accompanying parent/guardian must sign a waiver of liability in person, on-site for the child competitor to participate; this must occur no later than 5 pm on Friday, March 13, 2026 on the competition field at Apalachee Regional Park.
4. All child competitors must be wearing closed-toed shoes to participate; additional personal protective equipment including gloves and glasses will be provided on-site.
5. All child competitors must be related to an apprentice or journeyman competitor, FMEA member utility employee, Florida Lineman Competition sponsor or exhibitor, or FMEA staff member.
6. Child competitors must be registered in advance to reserve their competitor slot; [register here](#).