

Underground School

May 5–8, 2026



MMUA Training Center
Marshall, MN

2026 Underground School program details

Underground School features hands-on training that varies from year to year. Whether you are a seasoned journeyman looking to stay current or an apprentice just starting out, this school offers something for everyone.

Multi-session Classes/hands-on Training

Participants will be divided into groups and will rotate through the following hands-on training sessions:

Grounding and use of phasing sticks: Everyone understands that working on lines or equipment as deenergized requires testing and grounding. This class offers instruction on the proper way of grounding lines and equipment. Learners will be taught the proper way to utilize phasing sticks in the process of grounding, as well as phasing in cables.

Switchgear maintenance and operation: Understanding the inner workings and maintenance when dealing with padmount switchgear, will benefit all working with them. This session will help participants understand the different types of padmount switchgear, how they work, as well as the dangers involved when working with energized switchgear.

Directional drill operations: In this session, participants will gain hands-on experience operating a directional drill as well as the equipment needed to complete a project. Cable will be pulled back to help with completing the training center field rebuild. Whether you have experience with a directional drill or not, this class will be beneficial.

Transformer connections and rotation: With the different voltages that are available, it's crucial that a lineworker knows what type of transformer bank will be needed to best fulfill the customer's needs. This class is designed to offer participants hand-on training with transformer connections. Participants will learn about and build wye and delta banks, as well as open-wye and open-delta banks. The importance of understanding rotation will be covered as well.

Accident scenario: When a vehicle strikes any piece of electrical equipment it can pose several different threats and challenges. This session will cover step-by-step what to do: from securing the scene safe to the end result of restoring power to those areas affected.

200-Amp terminations: This session will help participants increase their understanding and further develops skills for terminating underground wire. Three different types of terminations will be taught. A skirted termination for a riser, 200-amp elbow, and a splice will all be covered. Proper tool selection and use of tools will also be covered.

What do I need to bring?

Please bring appropriate attire and materials, including:

- High-visibility clothing /outerwear
- Work gloves
- Hard hat
- Rubber gloves
- Safety glasses
- Work boots

General Sessions

Considerations for cable pulling and installation

The presentation will include the characteristics that go into designing an underground utility cable and what the manufacturing process looks like. We will discuss proper cable preparation for termination and proper handling and inspection of cable reels when receiving at your location. Preferred installation practices and common failure mechanisms that occur during installation.

Accident in the workplace

Anytime a severe injury happens in your workplace, it is felt by everyone. Hear firsthand how this potentially fatal accident occurred, the events leading up to it, the long-lasting effects, and what was learned from it.

Schedule

Tuesday, May 5

12:00–1:00	Registration and check-in
1:00	Welcome and opening remarks
1:00–4:00	General session: Considerations for cable pulling and installation
4:00	Wrap up

Wednesday, May 6

8:30–12:00	Multi-session class/hands-on training
11:45–12:30	Lunch
12:30–4:00	Multi-session class/hands-on training
4:00	Wrap up
5:00	Optional evening activities

Thursday, May 7

8:30–12:00	Multi-session class/hands-on training
11:45–12:30	Lunch
12:30–4:00	Multi-session class/hands-on training
4:00	Wrap up

Friday, May 8

8:30–12:00	General session: Accident in the workplace
12:00	Wrap up

Underground School registration fees

- Member—\$585 per person
- Associate Member—\$685 per person
- Non-member—\$880 per person

Registration fee increase \$50 on April 4, 2026. MMUA will issue a refund (less \$50 processing fee per person) provided MMUA is notified of the cancellation by 4:30 pm on April 13, 2026. Refunds issued to credit cards will be subject to a 3% fee. To register visit mmua.org/undergroundschool.

Register by April 3 for best rate. Advance registration ends April 13.