

Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program

2018 Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program (SCYP)?

SCYP offers the popular **Co-op Camp**, a series of four to five-day long summer leadership camps held at Candle Lake and Last Mountain Lake. Youth ages 12 to 18 from across Saskatchewan come together to learn more about co-operatives, develop leadership skills, meet new people, and have a great time! This is what participants had to say about Co-op Camp:

“By attending Co-op Camp, I learned about being a youth leader in my hometown. It was really great! I never thought I could be that.” - Zachary, Saskatoon

“What I love most about Co-op Camp is the sense of friendship and positivity found here. It’s amazing how fast you make friends here, and how much better you feel about yourself. I love it and always want to come back.”

- Victoria, Nipawin

What goes on at Co-op Camp?

Every activity at a Co-op Camp is hands-on and interactive. Participants work together to solve challenges and they form their own co-operative community to plan and run the camp.

Session topics at camps include co-operatives and youth opportunities, leadership, communication, teamwork, community and co-operation, global development, and much more. In addition, Co-op Camp offers recreational and social activities such as swimming, canoeing, volleyball, campfires, and dances.

The curriculum used at Co-op Camp is revised and updated annually. SCYP makes every effort to keep up-to-date with relevant information, make use of new teaching methods, and find innovative ways to engage today's youth in a meaningful and effective manner.

What goes on at LevelUp?

LevelUp is a life skills and career development seminar for all youth of working age or who are interested in becoming more career ready. LevelUp invites youth for a 3-day seminar where they can co-operatively engage with one another while being introduced to a variety of essential life skills.

Whether it is learning to manage your finances through Money Management, improving your resume and learning how to network in Professional Communications, becoming the ultimate traveler in Travelling 101, or just wanting to learn how to manage your time in Time Management, LevelUp takes all of these topics to the next level through activities and sessions.

While at LevelUp, participants meet new people, get up, have some fun, sit down, have some more fun, all the while learning about life, the universe, and mostly everything else. This is what one participant had to say about LevelUp:

“Overall LevelUp was an amazing seminar. I learned so much and made some new friends. I have been using the information and lessons I was taught at LevelUp on a daily basis and it has truly affected my life for the better. If the opportunity arises, I will 100% be joining up next year.” – Brady, Regina

How is the program funded?

Every participant pays a **\$250 registration fee**. In addition, a local co-operative sponsor pays a **\$475 sponsorship fee** on the participant's behalf.

Who are the staff at the camps?

Camp staff includes SCYP alumni as well as staff and volunteers from co-operatives and credit unions around the province. Employers donate staff time and SCYP provides accommodation along with meals for the Staff Training workshop and while at camp.

Providing staff is a wise investment for any organization. Staff members increase their knowledge about the co-operative movement and improve their communication and facilitation skills. Staff are presented with the opportunity to network with youth from around the province and share information about their organization.

This is what staff have to say about their experience:

"(Was your experience staffing camp worthwhile?) It was so emotionally rewarding. Watching all of the participants blossom and build everlasting friendships. I can't wait to staff again." – **Melinda, Pineland Co-op.**

"Every year I have a more intense and meaningful connection with the participants. The connection with my staff partners is beyond amazing! Seeing the growth with participants over the course of such a short time is just short of unbelievable!" – **Jessie, Affinity CU.**

"Co-op Camp helps to make a positive impact on youth in Saskatchewan. It is important to educate youth about the fundamentals of co-operatives." **Jordan, Conexus CU.**

For more information about staffing at this summer's Co-op Camps, please see the staff page on our website at <http://www.sask.coop/youth/co-op-camp/staff>

How is Co-op Camp promoted?

Each year promotional material is sent to co-operatives, credit unions, schools, First Nations and community organizations throughout the province. In addition, program staff will do school presentations throughout the province during May and June. We also have an extensive social media presence, and promote the program at youth events around the province.

However, we rely on YOUR help to promote Co-op Camp to possible participants, by ensuring they know about the program, see our promotional material and know if your organization will sponsor them. This package contains helpful tips and suggestions for promoting Co-op Camp. Please support involvement of young people from your area!

What if my promotional activities result in more requests for sponsorship than I can accommodate?

Please promote this unique opportunity as widely as possible, and continue doing so even if your allotment of sponsorships has been exhausted. If someone approaches your organization with a sponsorship request that you cannot accommodate, simply call the office and we will be happy to find sponsorship for the individual. We are committed to ensuring that no one is turned away from the program due to lack of sponsorship.

What is the 2018 SCYP Donation Drive?

The 2018 SCYP Donation Drive is another way local co-operators can get involved in the Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program. Throughout the 2018 Co-op Camp promotional period, SCYP ask co-operative/credit union managers and staff to passively solicit donations for SCYP. This could be done through staff room collection bowls; member point-of-sale donations; locally run donation events or fundraisers or any other activity that will assist in generating funds for SCYP activities. Please read the 2018 SCYP Donation Drive letter in this toolkit to learn more.

Where can I get more information about Co-op Camp?

Call our office at (306) 244-3702, e-mail us at scyp@sask.coop, or check out our website at www.sask.coop. You can also like us on Facebook at facebook.com/coopcamp and follow us on Twitter @coopcamprocks. We'd love to hear from you and are always interested in receiving suggestions or feedback.

Remember – Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program exists to meet the education and training needs of Saskatchewan co-operatives and community organizations. Its success depends on the support of people like YOU!