



YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2024

Pictured above: Richland Electric Cooperative students (left) and Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative students (right)

From the moment they arrived at the UW-Stout campus, the excitement was infectious. High school students from across the state gathered for the three-day Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) with a shared goal: to become better leaders, learn what makes cooperatives unique, and make a difference in their communities.

Julie Ostby, a billing clerk in our Darlington office, volunteered to be an adult chaperone at this year's event. Julie packed her bags and traveled to Menominee with five students sponsored by Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative: Celia Klar, Dominik Langston, Bradey Schneider, Erika Droessler, and Abigail Droessler, plus a returning youth chaperone, Jude Klar.

One of Julie's first remarks when reflecting on the three-day event was, "It was a really neat experience." She expressed how fun it was to watch the students quickly bond over the team-building exercises and interactive sessions. She found their intelligence, creativity, individuality, and leadership skills to be truly remarkable.

As an adult chaperone, Julie stayed in the college dorm and actively participated in many of the sessions, including recording a TikTok video. Reflecting on the packed daily agenda and the constant movement between activities, she noted how engaging the experience was. In the evenings, she enjoyed watching the students unwind and have fun playing volleyball with each other.

The students left with a newfound confidence, enhanced leadership skills, and a deeper understanding of the cooperative principles. They formed lasting friendships and created unforgettable memories. We are excited to see what the future has in store for these young leaders and the positive impact they will make in their communities.

Are you interested in attending next year's conference? Follow us on Facebook and watch our monthly publications for registration details coming in early 2025.

“ In their words...

Q: What do you wish others knew about YLC before going?

“It’s not as scary as it seems.”

“Before going to YLC I was quite nervous and thought it would be boring. I was very wrong! I learned so much, met so many wonderful, young leaders, and made amazing memories!”



Q: What did you learn?

“I learned that there are many leadership roles that go into co-ops. And there are MANY co-ops that do so much for our communities, and we don’t even know it!”

“Over the course of my time at YLC I learned what a cooperative is, how it works, and how it benefits its members. I also learned how to be polite and proper etiquette for an important dinner setting. Lastly I learned how a true leader should conduct themselves towards others.”

“I learned about energy cooperatives and the benefits that come with them. I also learned about simple changes in mindset and actions can make you a better leader.”



Q: What did you like best?

“I liked meeting new people and making new friends.”

“My favorite part was definitely the final day when all of the youth board candidates gave their speeches and we voted for who we wanted on the youth board. It was so fun being able to vote for people you got to know and hang out with to represent the youth board. Also, all of the speeches were super entertaining!”



“While I did enjoy everything at YLC, breaking off into our districts was my highlight! Getting to know so many different people!”

Q: Did you enjoy the week? Why?

“Overall I had an amazing time! From hearing linemen talk about experiences they’ve had in the past, to making TikToks explaining what a co-op is, to the card games before bed!”

“Yes, I definitely enjoyed the week! It was full of new people and experiences. I had to get used to different habits and into a new routine that I was not used to, which made my time more fun because of the change. Another thing that made the week enjoyable was the people. Even though I didn’t get close with a big group, everyone was super nice and had such a fun and positive vibe.”

“I loved this experience because I had never done something like that before.”

“I enjoyed the week because I got to meet so many new people with a similar mindset as my own. I also got to meet the current youth board and they were each great role models and friends.”

Q: What would you change?

“Stay for longer!”

“If I were to be able to change a part of my time at YLC it would be the amount of time I spent getting to meet new people. I am not a super social person, I tend to be shy around others, but I definitely think YLC is a time and place for you to get out of your comfort zone and meet new people and create new experiences.”

Q: Any other thoughts to share?

“My last thoughts are that I definitely want to come back and create more fun memories with new people!”

“The food was great, and the soft serve was even better!”



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We hope you will join us next year!



MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

This year's theme is **Extraordinary in the Ordinary**



We invite you to capture and share the beauty that surrounds us in our everyday lives. Whether it's the intricate patterns of nature, the dance of light and shadows, the charm of wildlife, the vibrant hues of changing leaves, or the delicate frost on a fence post, let your creativity shine through your photos.

Photo Contest Criteria:

- Taken in the SREC service area
- Horizontal (landscape orientation)
- May be in color or black and white
- High resolution (at least 300 dpi)

All ages and skill levels are encouraged to enter.

DEADLINE
EXTENDED TO

09.30.2024



**Winning photos will be featured
in SREC publications.**



For complete contest rules, visit sre.coop/photo-contest.





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