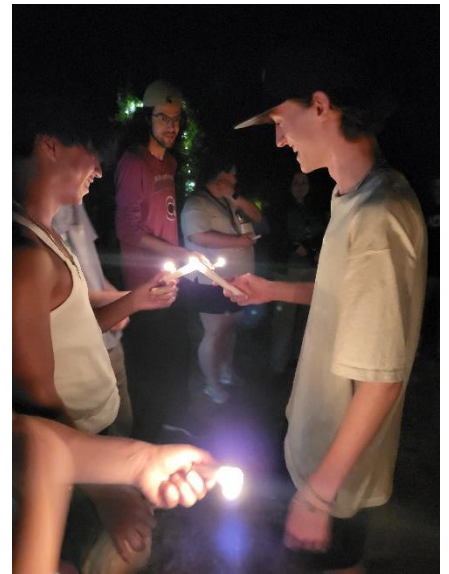


SUPPORT CO-OPERATIVE YOUNG LEADERS





Introduction

On behalf of the Ontario Co-operative Association and the CYL program we thank you for taking the time to consider this youth sponsorship opportunity. Any contribution would help support a series of week-long summer camp experiences in Aylmer, and Richmond Hill Ontario in the summer of 2025. These experiences prepare youth between the ages of 13 and 18 to advance their leadership skills, knowledge and understanding of how co-operative business contribute to the greater good and their value, communication skills and a stronger sense of how they can be leaders in this world.

Many youth are still suffering from the effect of years of unexpected lockdowns, restrictions, and fear, it is time for our youth to go back to being kids again. Our generous cooperative sponsors make it possible for youth to come to camp without families bearing the financial burden. Your contribution would help sponsor youth campers to attend a week at CYL camp, sponsor cooperative activities and provide the opportunity for young people to make lifelong friends, feel valued and just be themselves.

In this package we have included the project details we are proposing for sponsorship or donation - the Co-operative Young Leaders program, an overview of our organization's mandate and goals and a list of our organization's current board of directors.

At OCA we know the true power of the summer camp experience and the growth that youth experience while attending CYL. We admire all the co-operative sector currently does to support youth and recognize that there is always more we can do. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our program.

Yours cooperatively,

Carol Fleming
Director, CYL Program
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Ontario Co-operative Association



Project Description

The Co-operative Young Leaders (CYL) program was created in 1967 and has served over 6,000 youth thanks to the credit unions and co-operatives who continue to support the program. CYL is a week-long summer camp that allows young people to learn, grow and have fun. Along the way, amazing things happen – a touch of magic you will only find at CYL. Sponsoring CYL is an investment in youth and in your co-operative. Your support allows us to provide youth with valuable life and career skills, while gaining important knowledge about the co-operative sector. In return, sponsors can gain the loyalty and gratitude of their young members while having the opportunity to work with campers and facilitators throughout the year.

CYL offers our series of week-long summer camps to young people aged 13 to 18. This unique experiential learning program brings together youth, from across Ontario, to learn in a safe, secure and nonjudgmental environment. CYL empowers youth to be explorers, trailblazers, visionaries, and adventurers, while equipping them with the change-making tools and skills they need to succeed in the world. Bringing together youth with co-operative mentors creates a relationship that embraces and enhances their leadership potential. Campers develop self-confidence, learn from inspiring guest speakers, and have fun with traditional camp activities in a fun and challenging atmosphere. A typical day may include skits, wilderness activities, co-op tours, interactive learning sessions, sports, or a guest speaker. And, as a participant, youth share in the day-to-day leadership of their CYL week.

CYL has all the traditional things that make summer camps fun – hikes, campfires, swimming, sports and hanging out – but CYL'ers also participate in activities that emphasize leadership, communication, and teamwork. Youth will even create and operate their own co-op store called the 'Snack Shack.'

Our summer camp experiences take place over the months of July and August, but we are continuously developing our curriculum and programming throughout the year. [This summer](#), over 80 youth will attend CYL at the Gay Lea Foods, Co-operative Education Centre in Aylmer, or Lake St. George in Richmond Hill, Ontario. The CYL sites are amazing and offer great facilities, good food and a safe environment for both campers and our volunteer facilitators.

Your contribution, through donation or sponsorship, will contribute to youth experiences at CYL and beyond as we continue to strive to educate and empower youth across Ontario to cooperatively lead. It will have a positive impact on Ontario communities as we equip youth with more leadership and communication skills.



Project Description

CYL has served, and continues to serve, people in the communities across Ontario. Our youth campers, facilitators and staff come from all over Ontario including your community. Your contribution will make a real difference and help us further our goals.

CYL has three main goals: to provide youth with a fantastic summer camp experience in a safe and secure environment, to develop leadership skills and foster self-confidence, self-awareness and to create a stronger awareness of co-operatives and the principles that guide our sector.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CYL:

- One-part experiential learning and one-part fun camp activities
- The history of CYL is rooted in co-operative principles and how co-operatives contribute to the greater good.
- CYL youth campers come to a camp where they are accepted and valued for who they are, know that they are in a safe and non-judgmental space and learn how important personal values are.
- CYL youth learn new leadership, team building and communication skills.
- CYL youth campers can meet other youths from across the province of Ontario and forge relationships/friendships that will last a lifetime.
- CYL provides a learning experience while also providing the opportunity to have fun playing sports, learn how to be part of a team through outdoor games, relax and talk openly at a campfire and learn that we all have value and something to contribute to the world.
- CYL is a three-year program where we continue to improve the campers' knowledge of what it means to be a great leader, understanding co-operatives and show them that every career can be done co-operatively.

Project Description

The Co-operative Young Leaders Camp (CYL) is focused on leadership behaviours that are essential if leaders are to thrive in a time of ever-increasing change. CYL helps campers understand the behaviours involved in transformational leadership, with an emphasis on co-operation, teambuilding, and communication skills. CYL provides the opportunity for young people to learn how to use these behaviours to enhance their leadership presence.

Our summer sessions include three different age groups and curriculums at CYL.



July 13 to July 18, 2025
Co-operative Education Centre

Explore the wonder of co-operation as we learn about the history of co-operatives and discover the CYL community that awaits! Explorers provide campers with an understanding of the values and behaviours of leadership, teambuilding, and communication skills. Learn what makes a 'great' leader in a judgement free environment where everyone is welcome. Open to campers ages 13 to 14.



July 19 to July 25, 2025
Co-operative Education Centre

Blaze a trail towards co-operation as we focus on our CYL community, learn to overcome communication challenges, and lead the way towards building great teamwork and co-operative leadership skills. Leadership activities focus on stereotyping, the rumor mill, influence of social media, diversity, and equality. Campers begin to take over leading their camp while having fun exploring the great outdoors and enjoying traditional camp activities. Open to campers ages 15 to 16 and/or campers that have completed explorers.



July 26 to August 1, 2025
Co-operative Education Centre

This week we help solidify basic knowledge of the co-operative business model, support and foster the young co-operative leaders of the future and provide campers with the tools to make a difference in their community. Campers work in teams to create a co-operative that addresses a need in their community, create a communication and marketing plan which is presented to a panel of senior co-operative representatives. Visionaries take over the responsibility for leading the camp with the support of facilitators. Open to campers ages 16 to 18 and/or campers that completed trailblazers.



August 9 to August 15
Lake St. George

Experience the Adventurer spirit and fun as you join youth from across Ontario for the week. You will be welcomed in a safe, nonjudgmental environment where fun and spirited adventure awaits you. Leading the way with the help of your facilitation team you will learn new leadership and teambuilding skills, enjoy engaging conversations about social media, and have fun with our wilderness challenge, canoeing and other water activities. You will come away from the week having made new friends and learning about how the co-operative sector supports the greater good. Open to all youth ages 13 to 16 and campers who have completed Explorers.

CYL Testimonials

Here is what our campers had to say about CYL

- I really enjoyed the camp; it was a fun experience.
- It was fun and we learned lots.
- It was the first camp I went to, and it was a great experience, very different from what I was expecting.
- I loved it and I hope I can come back next year.
- It's great with lots of opportunities for fun and learning great leadership skills.
- I think that CYL is a camp with many learning experiences that teach us many life lessons that I am already finding helpful. I also like the fact that people come from a variety of places.
- CYL is a one-week summer leadership camp which supports individuals on their path to communication success.

Here is what our parents had to say about CYL

- My daughter loved it. Thank you!!!!
- My son had a great time. We appreciate the opportunity for our children to attend.
- We look forward to future registration, my daughter cannot wait to come back next year.
- Thank you, Carol, and the team for making it a memorable event for our daughter as she is making friendships and memories for life.
- Thank you CYL, for the wonderful job.
- My oldest daughter completed CYL as a participant and has spoken of her interest in becoming a facilitator when she is of age.
- Very good experience for my child, well done.
- What a fantastic program. It turned out to be somewhat life changing for our daughter. She truly came back from camp a stronger, more focused, and confident young lady. It's been rewarding seeing the difference attending CYL camp has made in her life.
- We would like to thank you for the opportunity. Our son had an amazing time and is still talking about the different experiences. He is already looking forward to coming back next year.

Ontario Co-operative Association

Goals & Mandate

Ontario Co-operative Association is a non-profit co-operative that was originally formed in 1989 as CCA Ontario Region, and officially incorporated in 2002. We are the Ontario Co-operative Association, and we believe in the power of co-operatives. We see a future in Ontario where co-operatives contribute to the sustainable development and growth of our communities, and to the overall social, economic, and environmental well-being of the province.

Our mission is to develop, support, educate, advocate, and catalyze collaboration between Ontario's co-operative businesses.

Our vision is an Ontario where co-operatives contribute to the sustainable growth and development of our communities. Co-operatives, together, build a better world.

Our Mandate and Overarching Goals Are:

- 1) To be the voice of co-operatives in Ontario, to achieve greater knowledge of the advantages of co-operation in society and in business, and of the advantages of the co-operative business structure.
 - We accomplish this through our government relations initiatives, promotion, public education, and co-operative education.
- 2) To catalyze co-operation for the community, to achieve collaboration among co-operatives to identify and address community needs, and produce solutions implemented by the community, for the benefit of the community.
 - We accomplish this through co-operative education, member relations and communications.
- 3) To facilitate co-operative solutions, which we accomplish by offering co-operative development support services, creating opportunities for sector-specific collaborations and by connecting our members to the support they need.



Current Board of Directors

Ontario Co-operative Association - Board of Directors

Jordon Moat – Libro Credit Union – Chair

Wendy Carruthers – Co-operators – Vice Chair – Secretary

Kathy Stewart – Frontline Credit Union – Treasurer

Chris Caners – SolarShare Co-operative

Craig Steven – Gay Lea Foods Co-operative

Reba Plummer – Canadian Worker Co-op Federation

Kelli Phillips – Hay Communications Co-operative

Why Sponsor Us?

Sponsoring or donating to CYL will have an extremely positive impact on the youth who participate in our program.

The CYL three-year program is rooted in leadership and co-operative principles and values. We come together with facilitators from the co-operative sector and CYL Alumni to help prepare youth to go out into their communities and lead by example, be a champion for the greater good and to remember the characteristics of good leaders. At end of the program campers leave with:

- An understanding that the very best of leadership is about listening and learning from others.
- Opportunities to help those around them want to succeed and move forward with excellent leadership skills.
- An understanding that sometimes the smallest things they do through their leadership can have a major impact on those around them.
- A focus on the importance of leadership, diversity, and equality in their community
- A recognition of their worth and the personal satisfaction they receive by being a “great leader.”

Sponsoring or donating to CYL will have an extremely positive impact on your co-operative or credit union and your owners/members.

- As the CYL program roots its learning and experiences in the principles of co-operation, youth will leave camp with a unique and strong connection to the co-operative sector. This provides the co-operative sector with new members, staff and co-operative champions. Your co-operative will be supporting the future leaders of our sector.

Staff members are also welcome to volunteer as facilitators at the Co-operative Young Leaders program in 2025 or any year moving forward.

- This opportunity is available for any staff members of co-operatives in Ontario or CYL Alumni. This gives your team the opportunity to learn more about the co-operative sector, connect with other members of the sector and make a difference in the lives of youth leaders.

You will be recognized as a donor or sponsor on the Co-operative Young Leaders website, and we will promote your co-operative on our social media platforms.

Why Sponsor Us?

The co-operative sector values integrity, excellence for member service, care for others, independence and fun the same way that CYL does. We know that you are passionate about supporting the well-being of your communities, and we are too. We want to work together to **make a real difference**.

The CYL program aligns with the co-operative sector mandate to educate and support youth. At CYL the program supports youth development and aligns with the co-operative education as we also focus on learning and social development during our camp sessions.

We believe that youth should be empowered to be co-operative leaders in the world. We believe that youth deserve an opportunity to be understood and to be seen in a safe and inclusive environment. CYL provides youth in Ontario with an incredible opportunity to discover more about themselves and their role in this world. Your co-operative can work with us to help young people succeed.

One thing our sector has in common with the CYL program is an 'unwavering focus on people.' CYL has served thousands of youths over the last 50 years, and we are so excited to welcome the next generation of leaders through our doors in the summer of 2025. With your support, **incredible things can happen**.

