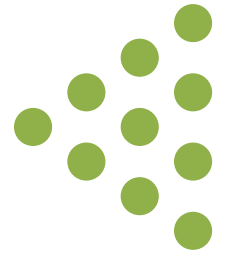




Co-operative
Young
Leaders



About the program



THINKING
FORWARD,
LEADING
NOW

Co-operative Young Leaders (CYL) is a series of week long summer camps for young people ages 13 to 18. This unique experiential learning program brings together youth from across Ontario, to develop their leadership and communication skills in a fun, safe and secure environment.

CYL empowers youth to be explorers, trailblazers and visionaries, equipping them with the change-making tools and skills they need to succeed in the world. Bringing youth together with established mentors, creates a relationship that embraces and enhances their leadership potential.

Participants develop self-confidence, learn from inspiring guest speakers, and have fun with traditional camp activities set in a non-judgemental atmosphere. Since its inception in 1967, over 3,500 young people have gone through the program, thanks to all the amazing organizations that have supported it over the years!



What a fantastic program! It turned out to be life-changing for our daughter. It's difficult to believe that a one-week camp could make that much of a difference. She came back from camp a stronger, more focused and confident young lady. It's been really rewarding to see the difference attending the camp has made in her everyday life, and most particularly, her school life. I believe her time at CYL helped solidify a strength within her that was there all along. The program activities, exercises and community helped to bring her strength to life. She now actively seeks out opportunities to make a difference in her community, and encourages others to do so as well.

- CYL participant's parent



What will participants do at CYL?

- Build and strengthen leadership and communication skills
- Develop more co-operative attitudes, values, and skills
- Enhance awareness of and the ability to analyze important and relevant social issues
- Meet peers and potential mentors from across Ontario
- Oh, and have lots of fun in the process!

What kinds of activities are there?

- Recreational (campfires, movie nights, dinner banquet, etc.)
- Sports (volleyball, dodge ball, soccer, baseball, reverse tag, reverse paintball, etc.)
- Artwork Project
- Participation on a committee (social, sports, collective memories, media moments, rules & regs)
- Talking Stick
- Snack Shack



I love CYL so much, it was the highlight of my year! The people I've met and the things I've learned at camp has changed my life for the better. When I'm at CYL, I'm the best version of myself. CYL is the most positive, non-judgmental, and inclusive place I've ever been, and the environment created by the people there empowers me and allows me to just be myself.

-Ebony Fernando, 2019 Participant & 2022 CYL Youth Engagement Co-ordinator

For more information...

2023 Program information is included on the next page. Registration for participants opens **January 9, 2023**. A system-wide notification will be sent out to all co-operatives in Ontario, and our social media platforms will also announce that registration is open.

If you would like more information about the Co-operative Young Leaders program, please visit our website at ontario.coop/CYL, or contact Carol Fleming, Director, Co-operative Young Leaders at: cfleming@ontario.coop with your inquiries.

2023 Program Information

EXPLORERS: ages 13 - 14

Sunday, July 23 to Friday, July 28, 2023
Sunday, July 30 to Friday, August 4, 2023



Participants will explore the wonder of co-operatives, as they learn about their history and discover the CYL community that awaits! They will gain an understanding of the values and behaviours of leadership, team-building, and communication skills, and learn what makes a “great” leader in a judgement-free environment where everyone is welcome. They will have fun meeting new friends and enjoying traditional camp activities, all while learning to lead a week at camp. This week is open to participant’s ages 13 to 14, and is a great introduction to CYL!

TRAILBLAZERS: ages 15 - 16

Saturday, July 15 to Friday, July 21, 2023



Participants will 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. Activities focus on stereotyping, the rumour mill, the influence of social media, as well as diversity and equality. Participants will begin to take over leading their camp, while having fun exploring the great outdoors and enjoying traditional camp activities. This is a great opportunity to reunite with old friends and meet new ones in a safe and supportive environment. This week is open to participants ages 15 to 16, and/or participants that have completed Explorers.

VISIONARIES: ages 17 - 18

Saturday, July 8 to Friday, July 14, 2023



Participants will implement the vision and imagination to shape the future of co-operatives, as they become innovative young leaders with the knowledge and skills to change the world! This week, we help them solidify basic knowledge of the co-operative business model, support and foster the co-operative leaders of the future, and provide them with the tools to make a difference in their communities. Participants work in teams to create a co-operative that addresses a need in their community, and to develop a communication and marketing plan which is presented to a panel of senior co-operative representatives for constructive feedback. Visionaries take over the responsibility of leading the camp with the support of their facilitators.

This week is open to participants ages 17 to 18, and/or participants that completed Trailblazers.