

Youth Scholar Program Objectives

1. Increase the understanding of basic cooperative principles, how cooperatives are organized and operated, and how to use cooperatives;
2. Develop an understanding of the issues creating challenges and opportunities for cooperatives today;
3. Provide opportunities for participation and leadership development;
4. Encourage youth scholars to explore career possibilities with cooperatives; and
5. Provide opportunities to become acquainted with cooperative leaders, members, educators, and other youth.

The Youth Scholar Program provides both educational and social activities.

How to Prepare for NICE

Dress Code

Bring clothing that will be appropriate for the varied activities. For the sessions, boys should wear collared shirts and pants and girls should wear skirts or slacks. No shorts, jeans or hats. For Tuesday's banquet, males should wear coats and ties, and females should wear dresses or skirts. Bring clothing for outdoor recreation, such as jeans and sportswear (no short shorts, tank tops, ragged jeans or cut-offs). If you sign up for the white water rafting trip, you will want to bring a bathing suit and old tennis shoes, water shoes or sandals.

Education Preparation

- Attend your state orientation meeting, if offered.
- Visit a cooperative in your area, and complete the form "Cooperative Visitation Report." Bring the completed form with you to NICE.
- Study the publication, *Co-ops 101, An Introduction to Cooperatives*, found on the USDA website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/pub/cir55/cir55rpt.htm>

Emergency Contact Information

In case of emergency, your family members can contact Marie Stiles, executive director, South Carolina Cooperative Council at 803.463.9706 (cell phone).

Youth Scholar Responsibilities

Your behavior and attitude at all times will reflect positively on how others see you, your state delegation, and NICE. Youth Scholars attending this conference are expected to follow these practices and procedures.

1. Attend and participate in all sessions and conference activities.
2. Report to the proper location and be on time for all activities.
3. Conference name badges must be worn at all times. The name badge admits you to sessions, meals, and conference activities.
4. Dress appropriately for each event.
5. Youth Scholars shall keep their state counselors or advisor informed of their activities at all times.
6. No Youth Scholar shall leave the conference site unless permission has been received from their state counselor and/or advisor.
7. Alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs of any form shall not be possessed and/or used at any time, under any circumstances.
8. Smoking is not permitted.
9. Beepers and cell phones are not allowed to be used during conference sessions and/or activities.
10. There shall be no defacing of public property. Any damages to the property or furnishings must be paid for by the individual or state responsible.
11. The residence hall room that you are assigned will be recorded with the conference registrar. Do not change rooms. If there is an emergency, it will be necessary to locate you according to your assigned room number.
12. At curfew, all Youth Scholars must be in their assigned residence hall room, quiet, and remain there until 6am.
13. All Youth Scholars should be courteous and helpful to other youth scholars, team leaders, advisors, counselors, and NICE staff.
14. Youth Scholars violating or ignoring any of the conduct practices and procedures will subject their entire state delegation to dismissal. Individual delegates may be sent home at his/her own expense.

Cooperative Visit Report

1. Questions about the cooperative's business characteristics:

- a. Full legal name: _____
- b. Year formed: _____
- c. Type: _____
- d. Name of manager: _____
- e. Geographic area served: _____
- f. Number of employees: _____
- g. Annual business volume: _____

2. Questions about the cooperative's membership and board

- a. Number of members presently served: _____
- b. How does a person become a member: _____

- c. Number of persons on the Board of Directors: _____
- d. For what length of time are directors elected? _____
- e. Can a director succeed him/herself? _____ If yes, how many times? _____

3. General questions

- a. What are the advantages of being a member of a cooperative? _____

- b. What are the most important issues or challenges facing members of the cooperative?

