



Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Foundation

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Greetings!

Farmers Union and the cooperative community of the Upper Midwest is proud to offer the College Conference on Cooperatives, a program designed to give college students a thorough understanding of cooperatives, the foundations on which they are built and the career opportunities they offer.

Farmers Union was founded in 1902 upon three basic principles: education, cooperation, and legislation. The organization's members believe education is the foundation upon which strong and vital rural communities are built. By educating people of all ages, Farmers Union encourages them to build cooperatives, strengthen their communities and improve their quality of life through civic engagement.

The College Conference on Cooperatives features presentations by cooperative leaders from all across the cooperative spectrum. Through this three-day conference, participants:

- Study the cooperative difference in business and community development
- Explore cooperative principles – their history and their practical and innovative applications in today's dynamic business environment
- Broaden their understanding of cooperatives and their impact on the economy
- Discover cooperative internship and career opportunities

At Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, we see the value this informative and educational conference provides. We are seeking individuals who would benefit from this training, whether they are beginning students of co-ops or they have had some previous cooperative education. The conference is open to all college students 18 years or older: 4-year, 2-year, undergrads and graduate students.

If you interested in learning more, please see the following pages, which include information on the selection process and the application. If you have additional questions feel free to contact Jennifer Luitjens Bahr, RMFU Director of Education, at 303.283.3550 or jennifer.bahr@rmfu.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Application and Selection Process

We are pleased that you are interested in applying for the in-person Farmers Union 2024 College Conference on Cooperatives, held February 15-18, 2024, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Described below are the procedures for applying, as well as the process for screening and selecting candidates for the program. Please read all the directions carefully and be sure to return all required materials by the deadline.

Application materials must be submitted by Wednesday, January 24 (1:00 p.m. MST). Please use attached form to complete your application. The application is open to all college students ages 18 years or older.

Up to six students may be selected by RMFU for this program. Applicants are not required to have any prior knowledge of cooperatives, but must demonstrate an interest in the cooperative business model from a personal or professional side.

Candidates will be notified of their status no later than 1:00 p.m. on January 25 so that travel arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Participants are required to attend the entire conference in Minneapolis from February 15-18 (arrive in MSP by Thursday late afternoon/early evening; return Sunday afternoon). Please do not apply if you cannot make this commitment.

Application

Each applicant must submit a complete application, including references and short answer essay.

1. Completed application, typed and signed
2. Typed responses to short answer essay questions, 1 page maximum
3. 1-2 references in support of your candidacy for this program; college professor/instructor.

Application Deadline is 1 p.m. MST, Wednesday, January 24, 2024.

Send completed application to jennifer.bahr@rmfu.org.

Expectations and Fees

Through the generous financial support of the CHS Foundation and the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Foundation, costs for conference registration, airfare, lodging and most meals will be covered.

Applicants who are not currently members of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union will be required to become a student member prior to departure for the program. Student memberships are \$25/year and can be purchased through our website at www.rmfu.org. Membership inquiries can be directed to jennifer.bahr@rmfu.org or 303.283.3550.

All participants are expected to act professionally and respectfully. Participants will be required to sign a behavior and expectation agreement.

Cancellation

If you cancel after your flight has been booked, you are responsible for reimbursing RMFU for the full cost, plus any cancellation fees.

Flights will be booked by end of day on January 26.

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Foundation
Application for 2024 National Farmers Union
College Conference on Cooperatives

Applicant Info

Name:

Address:

Cell Phone Number:

Date of Birth:

School Email:

Permanent Email:

Name of College or University:

Major or Department of Study:

Year in School:

Cumulative GPA:

Intended Career:

Background Farm Rural Small Town Urban

Check all that apply: Gluten-Free Vegetarian Vegan

Please list any other food allergies/dietary restrictions, or other accommodations:

Permission to use image for promotional materials: Yes No

Current member of Rocky Mountain Farmers Union: Yes No

(if you answered no, you understand that you must become a member prior to departure) Yes

References

1. Reference Name:

University and Department:

Phone Number:

Email:

Relationship to applicant:

2. Reference Name:

Organization/Individual:

Phone Number:

Email:

Relationship to applicant:

By submitting this application, I understand and agree to the conditions and expectations of my participation of this program.

Signature

Date

Short Answer Essay Instructions

Please provide thoughtful, yet concise, answers to the questions below. Responses should be no more than one page.

Questions

- Why are you interested in the cooperative model?
 - How do you anticipate applying the lessons you learn through this program in your education, your career, and your community?
 - Where do you see yourself in 5 to 10 years?
 - How have you demonstrated leadership and community involvement?
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