

## The CVEA Community Foundation Helps Shape Tomorrows Leaders



Left to Right, Scott Habermann, Sharon Crisp, Lydia Ardnt, Alyssa Norris, John Snelders, Maata Finau, and Jacob Ellanna

The CVEA Community Foundation is committed to enriching the educational experience of our local students and supporting future members of the Cooperative. Each year, CVEA participates in the Alaska Power Association Youth Leadership Program; providing students in the Copper Basin and Valdez life changing opportunities.

### 2012 Idaho Youth Rally

This year, CVEA awarded two students the opportunity to attend the 2012 Idaho Youth Rally hosted by the Idaho Consumer-Owned Utility Association (ICUA).

The Youth Rally provides a one-week rural electric-leadership program to high school sophomores and juniors. It is six days filled with fun and learning about consumer-owned electric utilities, developing leadership skills and self-esteem, meeting area students and building lasting relationships with other students

from Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

In 2012, Maata Finau, from Glennallen and John Snelders, from Valdez were awarded Youth Rally Scholarships from CVEA, allowing them to travel, at no cost to them, with a group of other Alaskans to attend the Youth Rally in Caldwell, Idaho, July 9-13.

This year, six Alaskan students attended the Youth Rally with chaperone Sharon Crisp from CVEA. In addition to CVEA's students, Homer Electric sent Scott Habermann and Lydia Ardnt and Golden Valley Electric sent Jacob Ellanna and Alyssa Norris.

The week was packed full of activities that included educational sessions on the electric industry, motivational speakers, and fun.

The students learned the basics of electricity and utility career opportunities and heard from industry leaders on important industry issues. They also had a session on grassroots training from

the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) where they simulated all aspects of running for office, including giving campaign speeches. Students toured the Idaho State Capitol Building and saw a very powerful safety demonstration.

One afternoon was spent learning about teambuilding by completing a cooperative course of activities, demonstrating how much more successful teams can be if they work together.

The students listened to a drug awareness panel and heard an entire family who had lost their loved one talk about the dangers of driving and texting.

Along with learning, there was plenty of time for fun. Students went bowling, spent an evening at a roller rink and an entire afternoon at Roaring Springs Water Park where they enjoyed water roller coasters, lazy rivers and wave pools, car races, mini golf, bumper boats, laser tag, and a huge arcade. They also had two dances, bbqs, and an ice cream social. One highlight of the camp was the talent show; CVEA's Maata Finau sang and played piano.

Throughout the week, students were evaluated and interviewed. These scores determined who would receive scholarships and awards and be selected to sit on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC).

Alaska did very well, with all six students receiving scholarships, and CVEA's students came out on top. John Snelders received the top score for Alaska; he will receive a \$500 scholarship and will serve as Alaska's representative on the YLC.

The YLC emphasizes the development of strong leadership, presentation, and advocacy skills in America's most promising young leaders. NRECA coordinates a series of educational workshops



for the YLC which cover topics such as the cooperative business model, grassroots advocacy, community service, and careers in public service. John will travel with the Idaho YLC representative to Washington, D.C. for the Youth Tour and the Youth Summit in 2013, and will attend the NRECA Annual Meeting the following year.

Maata was awarded a \$300 scholarship and was chosen to return to the Rally next year as a Student Director. This is a big honor as Directors are chosen by their peers.

### 2012 National Youth Tour

Emmie Van Wyhe was the top scorer at the 2011 Youth Rally, earning her a seat on the YLC and the chance to visit Washington, D.C. in 2012 as part of the NRECA National Youth Tour. While at the Youth Tour, Emmie, along with other delegates, saw the sights of our nation's capital and learned about the history of the United States and the electric cooperative movement. The students also gained insight into today's most important issues through face-to-face visits with their congressional delegations on Capitol Hill. Walking the hallowed halls of Congress is a memory that will undoubtedly stay with them forever.

Emmie visited Mt. Vernon, where George Washington lived, Ford's Theatre,



where President Lincoln was assassinated, and the Holocaust Museum, where students and adults alike saw, in graphic detail, the horrors committed throughout World War II.

Students visited the Lincoln Memorial and other presidential and war memorials as well as Arlington Cemetery, where they watched the changing of the Honor Guard. They also toured the National Archives and visited the Smithsonian.

Emmie, with hundreds of students from roughly 20 other states, enjoyed a cruise down the Potomac on the *Spirit of Mt. Vernon* one evening and attended the opening night of *Memphis* at the Kennedy Center.

When asked to comment on her Youth Tour experience, Emmie commented, "Attending the NRECA Youth Tour was an unbelievable experience. I never would have imagined that visiting Washington, D.C. and touring the many museums, monuments, and memorials would be so emotional and eye opening. I can't thank the CVEA Foundation and Alaska Power Association enough for this amazing opportunity."

For additional information contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005 or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org). Look for 2013 information and applications in December 2012. ■



Above Left, all six Alaskan students attending the Rally received scholarships to help further their education.

Top, the Alaska delegation enjoying themselves at Roaring Springs Water Park during the Idaho Youth Rally.

Above, Emmie Van Wyhe visits with Senator Lisa Murkowski during the NRECA National Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Photos by Sharon Crisp