



# CVEA Celebrates Co-op Month

In October, CVEA joined cooperatives in Alaska and across America to celebrate National Cooperative Month. Every October cooperatives are recognized for the qualities that make the business model unique. The Seven Cooperative Principles are voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, members' economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, training, and information, cooperation among cooperatives, and concern for community.

"Cooperatives are special," says Sharon Scheidt, CVEA Director of Communications. "We have an obligation to provide reliable, affordable, and safe electricity, but also believe we have a responsibility to support our members, enrich schools, and be involved in and enhance our communities. We enjoy

helping our communities and having fun during Co-op Month every year."

CVEA celebrated this year's Cooperative Month with traditional and new events throughout October that brought the cooperative and communities together.

Co-op Month kicked off with the opening of CVEA's 15th Annual Ruralite Cover Photo Contest. Winners receive \$100 per winning photo and are showcased in Ruralite, on CVEA's website and Facebook page, and with local media outlets. The contest received 46 entries from 8 local photographers. After CVEA employees judged the photos, the winners were announced and are highlighted on pg. 8 of this issue.

In true cooperative spirit, CVEA and CVT partnered on



a brand new Co-op Month Pick-Your-Own Pumpkin Patch event that included the annual joint food drive that supports local food banks. Unfortunately, due to a significant surge in COVID-19 cases, combined with school and other community closures in Valdez, the event was cancelled in the Valdez District and CVT was unable to participate in the event in the Copper Basin District.

While the cancellation was unfortunate for Valdez, CVEA was able to continue with the inaugural event in Glennallen on Saturday, October 23. The CVEA parking lot was transformed into a pumpkin patch and all who entered and brought a food or cash donation for the CRNA food bank were able to venture into the patch and pick their very own pumpkin. Many were surprised and pleased when selecting pumpkins with \$5 vendor coupons attached. There was also an area for kid's games and activities, and a fun fall-themed photo booth. Kuya's Kitchen sold tasty plates, Sarah Dolge sold beautiful gourmet cupcakes, and the Glennallen PTO sold cotton candy. The Copper River Basin Child Advocacy Center was also on hand selling Jazzy

Gourmet Popcorn, donated by CVEA and CVT, as a fundraiser. They raised \$461 for their organization.

This new, fun fall event was considered a success by all accounts, with approximately 275 people enjoying the event throughout the day. Four boxes of nonperishable food items were donated to the CRNA food bank, and Kathy Stratton was the lucky winner of a \$150 CVEA energy credit for her donation.

When CVEA employees weren't minding the pumpkin patch, they spent their time volunteering their lunch hours each week throughout the month of October processing recyclables at the Recycling Our Areas Resources Recycling Center in downtown Glennallen. CVEA employees generously donate their time to this cause each October during Co-op Month.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the CVEA Co-op Month activities this year. CVEA looks forward to enjoying all events in both districts in 2022. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions regarding Co-op Month, please contact Sharon Scheidt at 907-835-7005 or email [sscheidt@cvea.org](mailto:sscheidt@cvea.org). ■

# 2021 Ruralite Cover Photo Contest Winners

Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA) is pleased to announce the winners of the 15th Annual Ruralite Magazine Cover Photo Contest.

Congratulations to Ed Pinsky, Wayne McKinzey, Rich Loftin, Lori Geib, Erin Nauta, and Russell Posey. Two photos by both Ed Pinsky and Wayne McKinzey were chosen by CVEA employees this year: Canadian Lynx and Look What I Got by Pinsky and View From the Top and Tsaina Colors by McKinzey. Rich Loftin won for Berg Garden Blues, Lori Geib for X Marks the Spot, Erin Nauta for Two Days of Fall, and Russell Posey won for Sunrise at -40.

There were 46 photos submitted by 8 member photographers. After being narrowed to a large group of finalists, a vol-

unteer team of nine CVEA employees were given the photos, without the photographers being identified, and were asked to vote. These votes were tallied to determine the winners.

Winners will receive \$100 and be featured on the cover of Ruralite Magazine one month during 2022. They will also be featured on social media and [cvea.org](http://cvea.org).

CVEA is pleased to have the opportunity to see everyone's work and is thrilled to showcase Co-op members on the cover of Ruralite Magazine.

Again, congratulations to all the winners and thanks to everyone who participated in the 2021 Ruralite Cover Photo Contest. ■



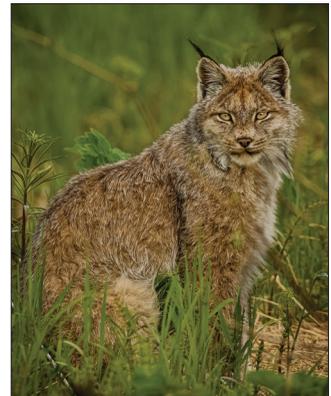
Sunrise at -40



View From the Top



Look What I Got



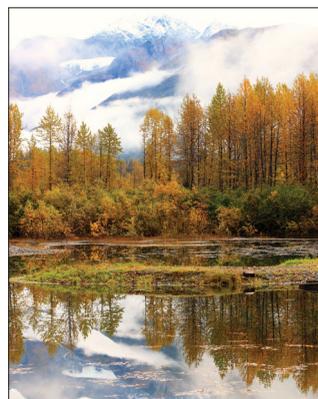
Canadian Lynx



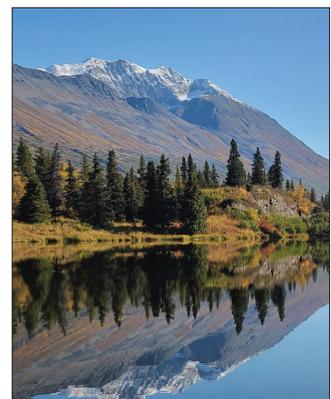
X Marks the Spot



Berg Garden Blues



Two Days of Fall



Tsaina Colors



### Happy For Holidays Kids' Activity Contest List

- Make a handprint turkey and write what you're thankful for
- Collect/donate food for food bank
- Make & eat a treat using pumpkin spice
- Decorate a Christmas tree or wreath
- Enjoy a snowy walk, hike, or snowshoe
- Help wrap a gift for someone you love
- Enjoy a cup of hot cocoa or apple cider
- Give someone a hug or smooch under the mistle toe
- Find a great hill or trail and go sledding
- Help someone carry or stack wood
- Make a homemade holiday card and give it to your favorite senior citizen
- Play board games with family or friends
- Bundle up and pose in your winter gear
- Go around looking at Christmas lights
- Make or eat holiday cookies or candies
- Enjoy a bonfire or a cozy spot by the fireplace/woodstove at home
- Complete a holiday craft or drawing
- Watch or read a holiday movie or book
- Help shovel or clear snow from car
- Decorate a gingerbread house



## CVEA Happy For Holidays Kids' Activity Contest

**Deadline - December 30, 2021**

#### How to participate:

- Review the list of activities above or at [cvea.org](http://cvea.org)
- Select which activities you want to complete
- Complete selected activity, have fun, and make sure to take a picture
- Complete any 10 activities on the list and receive a \$10 local gift card AND a chance to win \$150
- Email your (jpg) pictures and include: CVEA member name, permission to use photos (at least one), youth participant name and age, name of each activity completed, date completed, and mailing address to [kidsactivities@cvea.org](mailto:kidsactivities@cvea.org) by 6 p.m., Thursday, December 30, 2021

#### Additional Details:

- Age categories: 2-6, 7-12, 13-18 (two \$150 winners for each age category)
- Activities must be from the official list above and found at [cvea.org](http://cvea.org)
- Activities must be completed between November 22-December 30, 2021
- Deadline to email submissions is Thursday, December 30, 2021
- \$150 drawings will be on or before Thursday, January 6, 2022
- Each image equals a single activity
- Only complete submissions will be considered

## COPPER VALLEY ELECTRIC



# CVEA is Committed to Community

Publicly owned utilities were formed to bring affordable electricity to those who needed it. At the heart of their mission was neighbors coming together to better their communities. That same spirit continues at CVEA today. As a local business, staffed by your friends and neighbors, we look for ways to make a difference - big and small.

### Community Support Programs

Each year your Cooperative supports a wide variety of community groups and events such as the Valdez Museum, Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce, Valdez Gold Rush Days parade, Relay for Life, Frosty Fever, the Valdez Adventure Alliance, Copper Basin Independence Day parade, and the Kenny Lake Fun Run, to name a few.

Gifts, door prizes, and auction items are donated for various events and meetings throughout the year. Each holiday CVEA provides gifts or hosts festive Christmas gatherings for the Copper Basin and Valdez seniors.

Additionally, employees participate in community events, coach sports teams, and serve on many community work

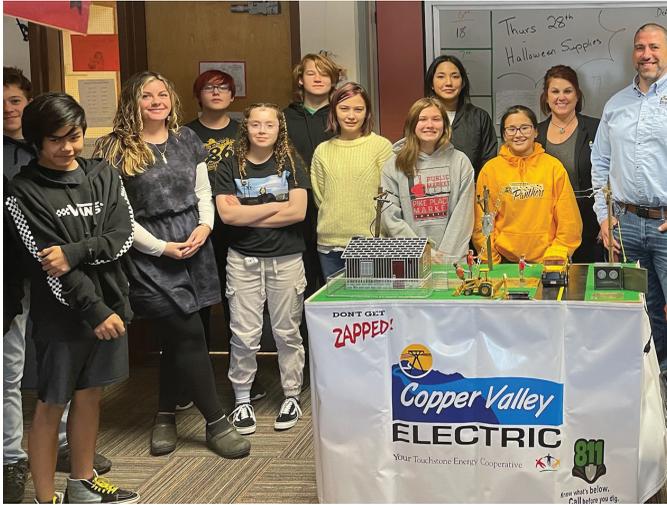
groups, task forces, boards and committees, providing local-community support and leadership.

CVEA continued the member tour program in 2021, hosting a dozen members for a full day in August. The tours are comprehensive and educational, and are considered an excellent opportunity by all who participate.

Finally, CVEA supports many educational and youth programs including participation in career and health fairs, classroom presentations, and tours to students of all ages and youth groups.

In October, CEO Travis Million and Sharon Scheidt, Director of Communications, spoke to Ms. Patterson's eighth grade science class in Glennallen about the Cooperative, CVEA's power plants, how electricity is made, and the various types of resources used for power generation. Million demonstrated how to generate hydroelectricity by using water from the faucet and used the Power Town safety model to show students how to stay safe around electric equipment and everyday hazards.

The presentation was followed the next day by a tour of the Glennallen Diesel Plant.



### Community Foundation

The CVEA Community Foundation (Foundation) was created to help the Cooperative do more for the communities it serves. The Foundation provides scholarships for students and contributions to educational, scientific, and charitable organizations in our communities. The Foundation is funded by capital credits that have escheated back to CVEA and generous donations from CVEA members and vendors.

Annually, the Foundation awards thousands of dollars in educational scholarships as well as scholarships for students to participate in industry youth leadership programs like the Idaho Youth Rally.

Each year the Foundation contributes funding to local nonprofit organizations looking to fund new or expanding programs that meet the Foundation's contribution guidelines.

In 2021 the Foundation Board of Directors awarded \$19,254 to fund 16 local nonprofit organizations serving CVEA communities. Congratulations to Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment, Copper River Watershed Project, Copper Valley Community Library, Valdez Co-op Preschool, Valdez Adventure Alliance, Valdez Museum, Valdez 6th and 8th Grade Science, Valdez 6-8th Grade Life Skills, Stepping Stones Learning Center, Valdez Torpedos Swim Club, Upstream Learning, CRNA breakfast program, Copper River Wrestling Booster Club, Copper Valley Historical Society, and National Close-up.

The Foundation Contribution Season begins in July, applications are due in August, contributions are announced in October, and checks are typically distributed in November or December. Local organizations whose missions support educational, scientific, or charitable purposes are encouraged to apply.

The Foundation's Board just approved a record \$23,666 to fund the 2022 contribution season.

For additional information, please contact Sharon Scheidt at 907-835-7005 or email [sscheidt@cvea.org](mailto:sscheidt@cvea.org). ■





A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Glennallen, AK 99588  
www.cvea.org

**Copper Basin District**  
907-822-3211

Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

**Valdez District**

907-835-4301

367 Fairbanks Dr.

**After hours outage line**

866-835-2832

#### Important Dates

##### December

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The December meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, December 16, 2021, in Glennallen

**CVEA Offices Closed:** The CVEA offices will be closed Wednesday, December 22 and Thursday, December 23, 2021, for the Christmas Holiday, and Wednesday, December 29 and Thursday, December 30, 2021, for New Year's

**Kid's Activity Contest Deadline:**

The deadline to email kid's activity program submissions is 6 p.m., Thursday, December 30, 2021

##### January

**CVEA Bylaws Amendment Petition**

**Deadline:** Recommended Bylaws amendments must be submitted by petition no later than 6 p.m., Thursday, January 6, 2022

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The January meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, January 20, 2022, in Valdez

AK-34



## CVEA Office Holiday Closures:

### Christmas

Wednesday, December 22

Thursday, December 23

### New Year's

Wednesday, December 29

Thursday, December 30

## CVEA Bylaws Amendments

CVEA members may propose Bylaws amendments for placement on the 2021 ballot by filing a petition with the Board of Directors. The petition must be signed by at least 10 percent of the Membership and filed at least 90 days before the annual meeting.

Please submit any amendments by petition prior to 6 p.m., Thursday, January 6, 2022. Petitions may be submitted to the Glennallen or Valdez office.

A copy of CVEA Bylaws can be picked up at either office or referenced online at [cvea.org](http://cvea.org).

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Sharon Scheidt at 907-835-7005 or email [sscheidt@cvea.org](mailto:sscheidt@cvea.org).