



Co-ops for Community

An Educational Activity For Youth

“Cooperation” is a term that young people are taught early in their lives. We encourage them to work together – even play together as teams – so they can accomplish shared goals and win competitions. This ability to work together should stay with them for the rest of their lives. Now, imagine a business model that is built around those same principles of cooperation rather than profit! A business where there is shared ownership and each member has a voice in major decisions about the business. It’s the co-operative business model and there are almost 40,000 of them in the U.S. economy alone.

Patch or badge programs sponsored by youth organizations are a great way for young people to explore the world around them and gain new perspectives. The “Co-ops for Community” Patch Program was developed by Cabot Creamery Co-operative, in collaboration with the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International, to introduce young people to the co-operative business model. Young people participating in the program will have an opportunity to visit co-ops in their communities and learn that co-ops come in many shapes and sizes.

The “Co-ops for Community” Patch Program includes an engaging mix of learning opportunities – Internet research and group activities are combined with field trips to local co-operatives, and even the opportunity for the group to create its own co-op business. The booklet for the patch program provides parents and group leaders with a range of activities from which to choose and guidance on which activities are appropriate for different age groups. Once the program has been completed, participants will each receive a “Co-ops for Community” patch.

The downloadable “Co-ops for Community” toolkit now is available *free of charge* at the websites of both Cabot and NCBA CLUSA. We’re excited that a pilot of the Patch Program will launch in North Carolina in the Fall of 2016 through a collaboration between the Cooperative Council of North Carolina (CCNC) and the Girl Scouts of the North Carolina Coastal Pines. We also anticipate that the “Co-ops for Community” Patch Program soon will be accessible through the websites of a number of co-operatives across the country.

Downloadable toolkit: cabotchese.coop/community-scout-patch-program

For more information about “Co-ops for Community” please contact Amanda Schlott, at healthinfo@cabotchese.coop

Connect with Cabot:



cabotchese.coop



Printed by Red Sun Press, a co-op printer. Learn more at redsunpress.com