

# Scholars Shine at Youth Rally!

Six San Juan County high-school students attended the Co-op Youth Rally at The College of Idaho as part of OPALCO's Nourdine Jensen Cooperative Youth Scholarship Program. Four of the six students earned top scholarships ranging from \$300-\$600 from the Idaho Consumer-owned Utilities Association (ICUA), who hosts the camp.

The Youth Rally included a mix of classroom time, guest speakers and social networking. There were 75 students from seven western states in attendance at the co-op leadership camp. Zach Fincher of Friday Harbor High School was elected by his peers to return as a Youth Director in 2018.

OPALCO offers a \$500 scholarship to students selected for the Nourdine Jensen Scholarship Program. New this year, the family of Nourdine Jensen on San Juan Island is matching each scholarship to give our island students \$1,000 to continue their education. OPALCO is grateful to the family of Nourdine Jensen for their generosity and excited to offer the children of our Co-op the opportunity to learn how to be strong leaders, active participants in the community – and, someday, engaged members of our electric co-op.

Sophomores and Juniors interested in the program may apply in February 2018.



The 2017 delegation included (from left to right) Chaperone Suzanne Olson, Haley Moss, Zach Fincher, Joanne Miltzner, Jonathan Doherty, Jayna Ott, Youth Director Tenley Nelsen and Chaperone Krista Bouchey

## **OPALCO 101: Find Info Fast!** **Check out a video tour of OPALCO's website**

OPALCO's website is your go-source for information about our co-op, energy efficiency, rebates and renewable energy. We have video and photo galleries, a calendar of events and meetings, stories about OPALCO's history, member profiles and a dynamic newsroom. In addition, the Resource Library is home to just about any and all Co-op documents, forms, policies, financial reports and board materials.

[www.opalco.com/photos-and-videos/](http://www.opalco.com/photos-and-videos/)

# COMMUNITY SOLAR NEWS

OPALCO is planning our first Community Solar project to be installed on Decatur Island in 2018.

This year is all about planning, talking to members and learning from the projects that our peers in the co-op world have already built. More than 1,200 members took a community solar survey in May and June and the results will be published in August. In a nutshell, our members are enthusiastic about community solar - as long as their rates don't go up as a result.

As we gather data to create a successful community solar project, we want your voice included in the process:

❶ If you want to get **regular updates** about our community solar, or think you may want to invest in the project, please send your email address to [jblomgren@opalco.com](mailto:jblomgren@opalco.com).

❷ **Are you an artist?** Would you like to submit a design for the community solar logo? We are accepting design ideas through **August 11** (deadline extended). Artists of all ages are encouraged to submit a design. Make your mark!

❸ Do you have a school, civic or community group that would like to hear more about community solar? Ask us! **We'd love to come talk with your group.**

❹ Visit our booth at the **County Fair in August** to see the survey results and talk with OPALCO staff about the project.

❺ Come to the **Open House events** scheduled in September to talk with OPALCO leadership and your co-op neighbors about the project.

**To learn more about our first community solar project, go to [www.opalco.com](http://www.opalco.com).**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 16-19: OPALCO at the County Fair
- August 17: Board Meeting, Friday Harbor 8:30 a.m.
- September 21: Board meeting, Lopez Island
- September 22: Board Work Session on Rates, Eastsound, 10 a.m.
- September 25-28: Open Houses Lopez, Shaw, Orcas, San Juan

**See [www.opalco.com/calendar](http://www.opalco.com/calendar) for more details**