How to apply

For application forms, eligibility information and deadlines, check **www.kootenay.coop** or ask our Customer Service.

Application deadlines

- *Monthly Community Donation Days:* **Ongoing** (often booked well in advance)
- *Till Donation Cards:* **Ongoing** (Cards are refreshed Feb 1 for a 1 year term)
- *Environmental Grant:* **April 15**
- *Kootenay Co-op Members' Scholarship:* **April 30**
- *Yes! Leadership Camp Scholarship:* **April 30**
- *Seasonal Giving Tree:* **Sept 1 - Oct 30**
- *Food Security Grant:* **Oct 1 - Dec 31**

Become a member

None of our community outreach is possible without membership commitment and support!

Signing up takes mere minutes at the till. Membership is only $50, which you can pay in 10 monthly installments of $5 dollars. Your membership benefits will be active as soon as you purchase your first share.

Want to know more about the Co-op?

- Our Customer Service staff is happy to answer your questions.
- Check out our website, it's like a heavily-laden apple tree of information!

  www.kootenay.coop

- Follow us on Facebook.

The Co-op exists
to serve its members and community.

We take heaps of pleasure and pride in our role as investors in the social, environmental and economic well-being of our community.

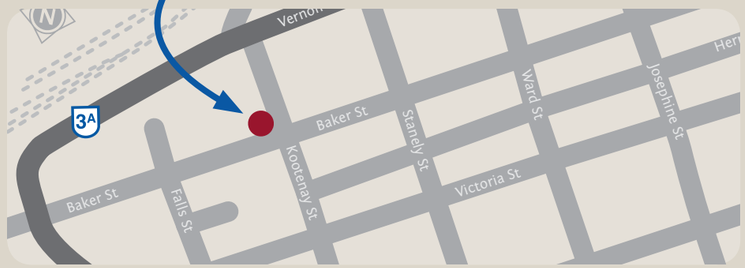
Through Giving...
Grants, scholarships and donations.

Through Education...
With speakers, workshops, events and classes.

Through Advocacy...
By supporting organizations that share our objectives.

Through Sharing Resources...
By offering the covered area to organizations for awareness raising and sharing resources with other co-ops and organizations.

Through Celebrations...
As a way to share our success with everyone.



Kootenay Country Store Co-op

295 Baker Street
Nelson, BC V1L 4H4

phone: 250-354-4077
fax: 250-354-4097

email: customerservice@kootenay.coop
online: **www.kootenay.coop**

Kootenay Co-op
Community Outreach

Kootenay Co-op
Community Outreach

Supporting our Community

Grants

Food and the environment are two key priorities of the Co-op. We offer two grants to support projects in aid of food security and the environment.

The $500 **Food Security Grant** is awarded in February to a local community project that aligns with the objectives of the United Nations' World Food Day.

The $500 **Earth Day Grant** is awarded in April to an environmental project in our community.

Scholarships

One person can make a difference. To help actualize this, the Co-op offers two annual scholarships for individuals in our community to acquire the knowledge and experience that lead to empowerment and change.

A $1000 **Kootenay Co-op Members' Scholarship** is awarded in May for post-secondary education. Priority is given to studies in food & environment, health, community development, and cooperation, but we invite applications from all in our community.

Our $650 **Yes! Leadership Camp Scholarship** is a scholarship that helps send a youth (aged 14-17) from our community to the Yes! Leadership Camp; a weeklong summer camp for BC youth. Run by the BC Cooperative Association, the camp focuses on skills-building in self-awareness, cooperation, communication, global awareness, environmental sustainability and leadership.

Education

We feel privileged to be in a community that truly values education and personal growth; therefore, we take pride in offering a variety of classes on cooking and wellness, hosting amazing speakers, workshops and events. These help us better understand the complex world of food systems, alternative health, the environment and cooperation.

We also offer our community a range of information pamphlets, recipes and online resources, while packing our newsletter, *On the Table*, with as much news and information as we can. Not sure where to start? Our customer service staff are always happy to help you get on the right path.

Advocacy

Our mission empowers us to advocate for a healthier, more sustainable community and planet. It is important to be acting both locally and globally toward fulfilling this mission.

On a local level, we participate in initiatives like the Agricutural Plan Steering Commmittee, the City of Nelson's Path to 2040, Kootenay Local Agricultural Society, Community Food Matters, the Upper Columbia Co-operative Council and many ad hoc food-related events and projects in the region.

We also advocate for changes by participating in national and international initiatives like the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network, The Organic Agriculture Protection Fund, Provender Alliance, the Cooperative Grocer Information Network and more.

Our members play a critical role in supporting these initiatives by coming to us with ideas, providing information and expertise, and by participating in campaigns and events to help shift our community (and planet) for the better.

Fundraising & Donations

The Co-op has several options to help your community group raise funds.

The **Gift Card Program** offers schools and other community organizations the opportunity to raise money by selling Co-op Gift Cards, in which a percentage of the purchased card value (currently 9%) is donated to the organization.

The third Tuesday of every month is **Community Donation Day**. 1% of our sales is donated to a non-profit group in our community in support of their ongoing efforts.

The **Till Donations Program** makes it easy for shoppers to donate directly to great organizations while ringing through their purchases. A selection of donation cards from a variety of groups is at the tills.

Each December, the Co-op selects a local organization to receive our **Seasonal Giving Tree** donations. This allows our members and shoppers to donate directly to the selected organization by picking a decorative card from the tree and ringing it through with their purchases.

Additionally, we provide miscellaneous, **Event Donations** to support your fundraising initiatives; gift cards, donated product or food platters.

Community Celebrations

Contributing to your community can be serious business. And it's also important to celebrate, right? We think so. We love to gather our members together to acknowledge the good work we do together and generate excitement about our next steps. That's why we celebrate Earth Day for the whole month of April, the Cooperative Movement during Co-op Week in October, Food Security in February, and our member community at our Co-op Winter Social in December and at our fall AGM...and whenever else we can! We make sure to have food, music, gifts to give away and lots of great people. No need to wait for something to arrive in the mail; you're invited!

Awareness-raising

We believe in helping our community share information and resources.

Want to bring exposure to your organization's current initiative? Look no further than the Co-op's covered area! With hundreds of members and shoppers visiting the Co-op every day, the covered area is a wonderful outreach resource for your community group.

We are happy to help local organizations with their objectives by providing them with information about local agriculture, food prep, health and more.