

## **Area Students Sharpen Leadership Skills at YLC**

**[River Falls, WI]** – Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services (PPCS) was proud to sponsor area high school students to the Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) at the UW-River Falls campus. The fourteen students, representing Prescott and River Falls high schools, joined about 125 other teens from Wisconsin on July 13-15 for the event.

Understanding the cooperative difference and identifying traits of leaders were just two of the topics to highlight the 53<sup>rd</sup> YLC. Students participated in team-building exercises, leadership workshops, learning sessions, and presentations on cooperative history, organization and principles. Attendees learned about the basics of cooperatives and how they can apply the ideals and philosophies of cooperation directly to their everyday lives. These young leaders also got a taste of campus life, made new friends and heard firsthand how they can make a positive impact in their schools and communities.

The YLC is a fun, educational and unique event that is planned by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) Youth Board, a group of six students elected each year by their peers. Students who participated in the YLC are also eligible to earn scholarships from WECA and PPCS. To qualify for scholarships from PPCS, students must also be entering their senior year of high school and their parents or guardians must be members of PPCS.

WECA offers the opportunity to participate in the YLC to high school students throughout the state. The Congress has been co-sponsored by Wisconsin's electric cooperatives and the UW-River Falls for 53 years.