



CALLING CO-OP STORIES



HELP ONEOTA CO-OP
PREPARE FOR OUR 50TH
ANNIVERSARY IN 2024!

We're asking for your stories. And here's the fun part!

Stories aren't any "one" thing. They don't come in any particular size, or shape, or format. They're as individual as the storyteller, and they take the form of communication a person is comfortable with. Since we're a 49-year-old food cooperative that's grown to over 5,000 member/owners, our story is one of lots of different experiences lived by lots of different people. Whatever your Co-op story may be, we're incredibly excited, and grateful, to hear it.

Maybe you helped found the Co-op in 1974. Maybe you moved to Decorah last year and fell in love with Oneota Co-op. Maybe the Co-op has defined your sense of community. Maybe the Co-op has defined your health journey, or that of family members. Maybe you're a longstanding or former Co-op employee. Maybe you're a current or former board member. Maybe you're what we affectionately call a "Co-op kid" - whether you're currently eight, or 48. Maybe you moved to Decorah because of Oneota Co-op. Or maybe you were delightfully surprised to discover us when you arrived in the area. Maybe you're well-versed in the US food cooperative movement. Maybe you didn't know much about food co-ops, but do now. Maybe you've struggled. Maybe you've grown. Maybe, we're hoping, you've got something to say.

HERE IS WHAT WE'D LOVE TO SEE:

- ▶ Please submit your Co-op experiences, memories and reflections to marketing@oneotacoop.com. Submit a bit at a time - or submit all at once.
- ▶ Recipes are a form of storytelling. You may have cherished ones you've created with Co-op sustenance and shared over the years. We'd love it if you'd share with us, too!
- ▶ Do you have any personal photos? We would love to scan and share them with our Co-op community.
- ▶ Is there a vintage T-shirt, bag, etc in a closet cubby? We'd love to photograph, and possibly display, these treasures.
- ▶ While we have an extensive collection of our newsletters, you may have article copies, advertisements and correspondence you'd be willing to share as well.

Here are examples of questions that we hope create responses - and spur further questions and discussion as well!

- ▶ What does the Co-op mean to you in one word? In one sentence?
- ▶ What is an early Co-op memory?
- ▶ What is a recent Co-op memory?
- ▶ How has the Co-op impacted you (and/or your family)?
- ▶ Is there a product or specific thing about the Co-op that you have enjoyed since the beginning?
- ▶ What are the most significant changes in your mind between the Co-op when you joined it and the Co-op today?
- ▶ What would you like the Co-op to be 10 years from now? What about 25 years from now?
- ▶ How, from your viewpoint, do we "fit" into the fabric of Decorah - of northeast Iowa?

We'll keep you posted as this portion of our anniversary planning develops, including our exploration of oral history preservation via video of Co-op member/owners. Thank you for being a part of our story.