



**Virginia 4-H All Star Chapter**  
4220 North Fork Road  
Elliston, VA 24087

Non-Profit  
Organization  
BULK MAILING  
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Permit No. 28

**Return Service Requested**

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension**  
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

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# Smoke Signals from the Big Chief

Dear 4-H All Stars,

Ninety-five outstanding 4-H leaders and young people from across the state were tapped into the Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars in 2017. Induction of these new All Stars was only possible because of the dedicated 4-H Extension Agents, leaders, parents and friends of 4-H who continuously give their time, talents and support to 4-H. The Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars salutes each individual who supports Virginia's 4-H programs.

The All Star Executive Committee began a new year with their fall meeting held in Christiansburg in September. The committee is made up of the officers, Chapter Big Chiefs, Committee Chairpersons and Advisors. Officers for 2017-2018 are: Barbara Spangler-Big Chief, Spencer Gee-Lesser Chief, Rita Eppard-Corresponding Scribe, Amanda Johnson-Recording Scribe, Aleia Warren-Scout, and Randy and Irene Leech-Treasurers. Chapter Big Chiefs are Jean Powers-Airfield, Sarah Gregory-Jamestown, Kayla Blincoe-Holiday Lake, William Thomas-Northern Virginia-East, Geraldine Cabbage-Northern Virginia-West, Billie Jean Elmer-Skelton and Debra Nester-Southwest. Our advisors are: Robert Tillotson and Windy Martin, Michelle Dickerson-VCE, and Glenda Snyder-State 4-H Staff. The contact information for Executive Committee members can be found on the back of the Star.

The Northern Virginia-East Chapter hosted the All Star Summer Conference at the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center, in Front Royal. This was truly a hands-on service event dedicated to preparing the Educational Center for the 2017 summer camp season. From painting to pruning to doing battle with poison ivy, All Stars from across the state pitched in for a weekend of service and fellowship.

Our Midwinter Conference will be hosted by the Southwest Chapter in Abingdon on February 2-4, 2018. Details are in this Star along with the registration form. I hope to see you there and that you will encourage new All Stars from your area to attend. We know that those who attend their first conference after being trapped are more likely to go to future conferences and to become active All Stars. Please reach out to the new All Stars in your Chapter and encourage them to attend Midwinters, and if needed, help them find transportation to Abingdon.

Do not hesitate to call on your Executive Committee with ideas and challenges or for help with upcoming events – let the Executive Committee know when we can be of service to the 4-H program in your area.

I look forward to seeing you at the Midwinter Conference in Abingdon, February 2-4, 2018.

Yours in Service,  
Barbara Spangler  
Big Chief



**The Virginia Star**  
The official publication of the Virginia 4-H All Stars.  
December 2017 Edition

## All Star Chapter Chiefs and 4-H Agent Advisors

Holiday lake	NOVA-East & West	Airfield
<b>Chief</b>	<b>Chiefs</b>	<b>Chief</b>
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<b>Chapter 4-H Agent Advisor(s)</b>	<b>Chapter 4-H Agent Advisor(s)</b>	<b>Chapter 4-H Agent Advisor</b>
<b><u>Kim Mayo</u></b> VCE-Fluvanna Fork Union, VA 23055 <a href="mailto:kmayo@vt.edu">kmayo@vt.edu</a> 434.591.1950 ext. 1001 <b><u>Cathy Howland</u></b> VCE-Powhatan Powhatan, VA 23139 <a href="mailto:chowland@vt.edu">chowland@vt.edu</a> 804.598.5640	<b><u>Kim Monroe</u></b> VCE-Loudon Leesburg, Virginia, VA 20175 <a href="mailto:kmonroe@vt.edu">kmonroe@vt.edu</a> 703.777.0373 <b><u>Carol Nansel</u></b> VCE-Shenandoah Woodstock, VA 22664 <a href="mailto:cnansel@vt.edu">cnansel@vt.edu</a> 540.459.6140	<b><u>Jocelyn Pearson</u></b> VCE- Chesapeake Chesapeake, VA 23322 <a href="mailto:jdailey@cityofchesapeake.net">jdailey@cityofchesapeake.net</a> 757.382.6348
<b>Skelton</b>	<b>Jamestown</b>	<b>Southwest</b>
<b>Chief</b>	<b>Chief</b>	<b>Chief</b>
<b><u>Billie Jean Elmer</u></b> 5181 Shingle Block Road Bedford, VA 24523 <a href="mailto:bjelmer@live.com">bjelmer@live.com</a> 804.586.3706	<b><u>Sarah Gregory</u></b> 9111 Omaha St. Richmond, VA 23237 <a href="mailto:sngregory@vuu.edu">sngregory@vuu.edu</a> <a href="mailto:sgallen1@live.com">sgallen1@live.com</a> 804.275.5806	<b><u>Deb Nester</u></b> 131 Cardinal Circle Road Laurel Fork, VA 24352 debnester@yahoo.com 276.398.2075(h) 276.730.5624(c)
<b>Chapter 4-H Agent Advisor</b>	<b>Chapter 4-H Agent Advisor</b>	<b>Chapter 4-H Agent Advisor</b>
<b><u>Michelle Dickerson</u></b> 755 Roanoke St. Suite 1G Christiansburg, VA 24073 <a href="mailto:adickerson@vt.edu">adickerson@vt.edu</a> 540.382.5690	<b><u>Kendra Young</u></b> VCE-Henrico P.O. Box 90775 Henrico, VA 23273 <a href="mailto:kekyle@vt.edu">kekyle@vt.edu</a> 804.501.5160	<b><u>Hunter Romano</u></b> 515A Hurricane Road, Building A Wise Skill Center Complex Wise, VA 24293 <a href="mailto:romano@vt.edu">romano@vt.edu</a> 276.328.6194

### Other All Star Contacts

All Star Advisor	All Star Advisor	All Star Advisor
<b><u>Robert Tillotson</u></b> 8868 Red House Road Appomattox, VA 24522 <a href="mailto:ricochetrobot56@gmail.com">ricochetrobot56@gmail.com</a> 434.841.6055	<b><u>Julie Martin</u></b> 100 Combs Loop Yorktown, VA 23693 <a href="mailto:julie-martin@cox.net">julie-martin@cox.net</a> (M) 757.814.9591 (H) 757.867.6154 (W) 757.833.8147	<b><u>Michelle Dickerson</u></b> 755 Roanoke St. Suite 1G Christiansburg, VA 24073 <a href="mailto:adickerson@vt.edu">adickerson@vt.edu</a> 540.382.5690
Virginia 4-H Foundation	Past Big Chief	2016-2017 Cabinet Liaison
<b><u>Glenda Snyder</u></b> 250 Drillfield Drive 107 Hutcheson Hall (0419) Blacksburg, VA 24061 <a href="mailto:gsnyder@vt.edu">gsnyder@vt.edu</a> 540.521.9647	<b><u>Kayla Blincoe</u></b> 485 Carnation Road Ruckersville, VA 22968 <a href="mailto:kweppard@gmail.com">kweppard@gmail.com</a> 434.466.7775	<b><u>Katie Vanik</u></b> Northern District Ambassador, Loudoun <a href="mailto:katievanik@comcast.net">katievanik@comcast.net</a> Home: 703-726-3040

## REGISTRATION MIDWINTER CONFERENCE FEB 2-4, 2018 Southwest Virginia 4-H Educational Center, Abingdon, Virginia

Name \_\_\_\_\_ M / F Name \_\_\_\_\_ M / F

Address \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Year Tapped \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s)\*/IFYE \_\_\_\_\_ M / F \_\_\_\_\_ M / F

	Number of Persons	Total
Full Conference/ <b>Dickenson - Triple Occupancy</b>	_____	X \$60 = \$ _____
Friday night Add	_____	X \$25 = \$ _____
Full Conference/ <b>Dickenson - Double Occupancy</b>	_____	X \$75 = \$ _____
Friday night Add	_____	X \$35 = \$ _____
Full Conference/ <b>Dickenson - Single Occupancy</b>	_____	X \$105 = \$ _____
Friday night Add	_____	X \$ 65 = \$ _____
Full Conference/ <b>Lodge</b> (must provide own linens)	_____	X \$60 = \$ _____
Friday night Add	_____	X \$25 = \$ _____
<i>Tour/Workshop Choice, choose one:</i>		
_____ Production Tour at Barter Theatre	_____	X \$10 = \$ _____
_____ Museum of Middle Appalachia (\$3-5 payable day of tour)	_____	X \$12 = \$ _____
_____ Barn Quilt Squares (no fee)	_____	X \$28 = \$ _____
<i>Saturday lunch</i> (can be combined with banquet and/or tours)	_____	X \$28 = \$ _____
<i>Banquet only</i> (includes registration fee)	_____	\$ _____
<b>Late Fee – (If postmarked after January 16th)</b> add \$5	_____	\$ _____
<b>Conference registration total</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____
CONTRIBUTIONS: New Star Fund (Supports new member participation)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Wayne M. Keffer Endowment Fund (Provides scholarships)	\$ _____	\$ _____
DUES: Virginia 4-H All Star dues (Annual \$10 / Life \$75)	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____

For Double and Triple Occupancy in Dickenson, list roommates not registered on this form:

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_  
*Special Needs* – Dietary, Handicap, or Other: \_\_\_\_\_

(special needs cannot be guaranteed if registering after January 16)

*Code of Conduct* All Conference registrants need to read and sign the following Code of Conduct:

As a Virginia 4-H All Star event participant, I will conduct myself during the course of this conference in a manner which reflects the qualities of a 4-H All Star.

\*Any conferences guests, other than spouses, parents and / or children, must be approved by the Big Chief and / or 4-H Department Liaison. No alcoholic beverages permitted at All Star functions.

All Star Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (If All Star is under age 18)

**Make check payable to:** Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars (\$25 service charge for returned check)  
 Send registration and check to: Randy & Irene Leech, 4220 North Fork Rd.; Elliston, VA 24087  
 Registration questions: Phone 540-268-5373 – Home; 540 268-1018 – Fax; Email: [ileech@vt.edu](mailto:ileech@vt.edu)  
 Conference questions: Phone 276-398-2075; Email [debnester@yahoo.com](mailto:debnester@yahoo.com)

## “Stars and Clovers in the Heart of Appalachia”

February 2 - 4, 2018

Join us at the Southwest 4-H Center in Abingdon, VA for a slightly different experience at a Midwinter Conference.

Among the opportunities:

- Make barn quilts
- Tour the Barter Theater
- Dance with DJ Cody Lopez
- Meet other All Stars



*Please read registration form carefully* as meals, lodging and registration fee are “bundled together”. Full conference includes Saturday lunch & banquet and Sunday breakfast. If not attending full conference, Saturday lunch and banquet can be purchased separately. Everyone is welcome to arrive on Friday night for an extended stay. Take the opportunity to shadow the executive committee to see if you might be interested in becoming an officer or assist with a pre-conference service project.

**Lodging:** You may decide to stay in the Dickenson Conference Center or the “New” Lodge.

**Dickenson Conference Center:** 3 rooms have one double and one twin bed; 11 rooms have three single beds. All rooms have private baths with an additional sink in the room. *Rates include linens*. Wireless internet provided. Guest lobby with lounge furniture, DVD player, board games plus kitchenette included. *Rooms are priced per individual*. For example if a family of three registers on the same form and are staying in the same room in Dickenson, the price will be 3 times \$60 for a total of \$180. OR if you are going to have two roommates but they are registering on separate forms, you will pay \$60 and then they will each pay \$60. Then add Friday costs the same way.

**“New” Lodge:** Four “pods;” each sleeps approximately 25 people in dorm style rooms with each pod having a shared bathroom. *Must provide own linens*. Wireless internet provided.

### Three options for Saturday afternoon activities:

**Barter Theatre Tour:** “Learn the history of the second oldest regional theatre in the country and see what goes on behind the curtains, then see how a show is created by touring Barter Theatre’s production buildings. Tours are approximately one hour long. Please note that the tour requires walking and going up & down stairs.” [from barter theatre.com] *Cost of tour will be \$10 and needs to be paid with conference registration.*

**Step back in time at the Museum of the Middle Appalachians Tour.** Learn about the unique geology of the region and how it has influenced the area for millions of years. See the full size replicas of ice age mammals that roamed the area. View a display of Woodland Indian artifacts which includes an extensive collection of bead work. See evidence of two Civil War battles which occurred at “The Salt Capital of the Confederacy”. Learn about Saltville’s history as a company town. Whether you’re a native of the area who wants to know more about your heritage or you want to learn about the area as you visit, you’ll find something to interest you.” [from Virginia.org] *Cost of this tour will be \$3 - \$5 depending on the number of participants. Be prepared to pay the day of tour.*

**Barn Quilt Squares Workshop/Service Project** The Southwest 4-H Center has an ongoing fundraiser painting barn quilt squares. This workshop will be a hands-on demonstration of hand painting barn quilt squares. The process will be described from start to finish and participants will be able to assist in painting squares for the 4H Center.

**Other service projects** during the weekend: Cutting out stars for Congress doors.

Collecting food for the local food pantry.

Please bring donations of non-perishable food and turn in during registration.

Silent Auction for a fundraiser. Please bring items to sell as well as money to buy!

# The Virginia Star

## Obituaries

**J. Wesley Kern, Jr.**, 66, of Buchanan, Virginia passed away Sunday, September 24, 2017. Wesley retired from the Botetourt County School System with over 20 years of service and was a member of the Buchanan Presbyterian Church. He was the 4-H Extension Agent, for Botetourt County for several years and was a 4-H Volunteer, 4-H All Star and 4-H alumnus. Through his years as a 4-H Agent and as a Botetourt County Schools teacher, Wesley made a difference in the lives of many youth and adults.

**Audrey Oliver Lee**, 66, of Bedford, passed away, Monday, August 14, 2017 after a brief illness. Audrey was a graduate of Longwood University. Audrey Oliver Lee dedicated her life to 4-H, beginning at a young age as a 4-H member. Audrey had a 30 plus year career as the 4-H Extension Agent in Bedford County, during which she positively impacted the lives of thousands of youth. She continued to serve the youth of Bedford for many years in her retirement. Audrey embodied the Virginia Tech motto, “Ut Prosim” (That I May Serve). An endowment to honor the life and service of Audrey has been established to provide scholarship assistance to the youth of Bedford county.

An article was written about Audrey Lee for the Bedford Bulletin on October 5, 2017. The article can be found at: [www.bedfordbulletin.com/content/Audrey-lee-touched-many-through-her-service-4-h-extension-agent-bedford](http://www.bedfordbulletin.com/content/Audrey-lee-touched-many-through-her-service-4-h-extension-agent-bedford)



The Skelton Chapter of 4-H All Stars worked with the Bedford County Extension Office staff in hosting a Memorial Service for Audrey Lee at the W. E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center on Sunday, October 15, 2017. Thank you to the Skelton 4-H All Stars and the Bedford Extension Office for having the service and refreshments in Audrey’s memory.





### 2018 Virginia 4-H All Star Midwinter Conference Schedule

#### Friday, February 2, 2018

7:30 -10:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting - Dickenson Conference Center  
OR Assist with pre-conference service projects

#### Saturday, February 3, 2018

8:30 AM Breakfast (for those who stayed at 4-H Center on Friday night)

9:00 - 10:00 AM Executive Committee Meeting (If needed)  
10:00 - Noon Registration – Dickenson Conference Center  
10:00 – Noon Service Project, Committee Meetings  
11:00 AM IFYE Meeting (May be continued at lunch)

Noon – 1:00 PM Lunch

1:15 PM Meet & depart for tours by carpooling  
1:30 Service project - painting Barn Quilt Squares  
4:45 Chapter Meetings (if needed)  
5:15 Business Meeting

6:30 Banquet (Dressy Casual)–Awards presentations,  
Entertainment by Junior Appalachian Musicians

Following Banquet: Live & Silent Auction, Hospitality, Committee Meetings  
Dancing with DJ Cody Lopez

#### Sunday – February 4, 2018

8:30 AM Breakfast  
9:15 Devotions  
9:45 Workshops

10:45 Business Meeting – Vote for 2018 All Star Members  
Have a Safe Trip Home!

**Directions to the SWVA 4-H Educational Center, 25236 Hillman Hwy, Abingdon, VA 24210**  
Traveling south on I-81: Take Exit 22. Turn right onto Enterprise Road. At the intersection, turn left onto Hillman Highway. 4-H Center is approximately 1.5 miles on the left.

Traveling north on I-81: Take Exit 19. Travel south on U.S. Route 11 for approximately 1/2 mile. Turn right on State Route 609 (Hillman Highway). Follow Route 609 for approximately 1-1/2 miles to the 4-H Center entrance on the right.



### Audrey Oliver Lee 4-H Endowment

The Audrey Oliver Lee 4-H Endowment has been established to provide 4-H camp scholarships. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation, please make your check payable to the Virginia Tech Foundation – SML # 860027 and mail to: Audrey Lee Endowment, c/o W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake, 775 Hermitage Road, Wirtz, Virginia 24184.

For online donations: [www.vt.edu](http://www.vt.edu); select “Giving” then “Give Today” area: “W.E. Skelton 4-H Center”, Fund “Other”, Designation “SML # 860027 Audrey Oliver Lee”. For phone donations please call Virginia Tech Gift Accounting at 1-800-533-1144, or 540-231-2828.

### Virginia 4-H All Star Strategic Planning

The Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars Executive Board, Extension 4-H Agents, and other 4-H All Stars met on Saturday, September 16, 2017 to participate in a Strategic Planning session. Dr. Barbara Board, Interim Associate Administrator, NC A & T Extension Administration, and Virginia 4-H All Star conducted the process with the group. The group generated a list of strategies for strengthening the organization and begin the prioritization process. The priorities will be reviewed and a program plan developed. Look for more details in the future.

### Virginia 4-H All Star Awards

Visit the Virginia 4-H All Star website to learn about Awards, Scholarships and Recognition available to 4-H All Stars at <http://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/all-stars.html>

Recognitions include:

- ◆ Wayne M. Keffer Memorial Scholarship
- ◆ Bradshaw Service Award
- ◆ Virginia 4-H All Star Hall of Fame
- ◆ C. D. Allen Award for Excellence
- ◆ Dottie Nelson Award for Excellence in International Programs

All applications and nominations are due January 1, 2018.



## Looking back - Look forward

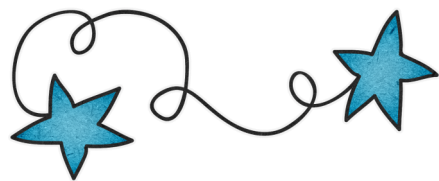
On August 4, 1922, members of the West Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars initiated nine 4-H members and three staff members as charter members of the Virginia 4-H All Star Chapter. West Virginia had organized in 1919 and they had helped Maryland organize in 1921. In following years, Virginia 4-H All Stars worked with peers from Maryland and West Virginia to establish 4-H All Star Chapters in other states.

These included Rhode Island (1928), Massachusetts (1929), Tennessee (1948), Mississippi (1950), and New Hampshire (1954). Sadly, only Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia operate Chapters that have maintained the initial framework that included youth and adults joining to continue their work. Tennessee has a 4-H All Star program but is essentially now a youth only organization.

Like any organization that has been around since the 1920s, we have had our ups and downs. Cities Services started supporting the All Stars in 1954. When their sponsorship stopped after more than two decades, that support was missed! For most of the organization's existence, the Virginia Cooperative Extension staff at the State level devoted significant time to helping operate the 4-H All Stars. We have overcome challenges such as the downsizing of State 4-H staff beginning in the early 2000s, and the reduction in the number of 4-H Agents, by taking on greater administrative roles as volunteers. As rapid turnover brings in new Agents who are unaware of All Stars, we work to communicate our history and purpose, to show them opportunities to work together, and above all, to provide Service.

The Virginia 4-H All Star program and operation has changed over the years in response to all of these challenges. Our most recent reorganization has been to move from districts to Chapters based on the six 4-H camping service areas and named after the six 4-H educational centers in Virginia. It has been difficult, but overall it is working. As we move toward our 100th Anniversary in less than five years, the future looks bright. We are a strong organization looking forward to celebrating in 2022!"

A planning committee has been established for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Those who would like to become involved in this celebration should contact Interim Chair William E. Thomas at [wetsbt@gmail.com](mailto:wetsbt@gmail.com).



## "Baby Twinkles"

**Killian Duncan Brown** was born July 20, 2017 to Kelsey Duncan Brown (Smyth, 2004) and Andrew Brown.

**Grayson Nathaniel Cullop** was born June 23, 2017 to Shai Cullop (Smyth, 1999) and Meredith Cullop.

**Merida Leighann McBride** was born August 29, 2017 to Michael McBride (Tazewell, 2011) and Maria Jane McBride

**"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."**

**Muhammad Ali**

## Smoke Signals from our Chapters

### **Airfield 4-H All Star Chapter - Jean Powers, Chief**

Airfield Chapter members have been active over the summer volunteering at local unit day camps and respective Junior Camps at Airfield 4-H Center in Wakefield. 4-H garden, environmental, horse, shooting, other specialty clubs along with local unit livestock shows, county fairs and the Virginia State Fair have kept All Star members busy during the summer and fall.

Several members enjoyed the 2017 All Star Interstate Conference in Frederick, Maryland and are looking forward to traveling to Morgantown, West Virginia for the 2019 All Star Interstate Conference on July 25-28, 2019.

Members met in November at the Chesapeake Extension Office to review All Star Nomination Applications.

Our next chapter meeting will be conducted on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at the 2018 Midwinters Conference hosted by the Southwest Chapter at the Southwest 4-H Educational Center. The chapter is responsible for registration, nametags and door prizes. Members are asked to donate appropriate items for door prizes.

### **Holiday Lake Chapter – Kayla E. Blincoe, Chief**

The Holiday Lake Chapter of 4-H All Stars met in November to review chapter nominations. We are excited to provide Banquet table favors, decorations, flags, and setup at the upcoming Midwinter conference. We hope to see many Holiday Lake Chapter members there! Contact Kayla Blincoe at [kweppard@gmail.com](mailto:kweppard@gmail.com) if you would like to get connected with other chapter members to share rooms or ride together to this wonderful conference!

### **Jamestown 4-H All Star Chapter - Sarah J. Gregory, Chief**

Jamestown 4-H All Stars participated in the 4-H All Stars Interstate Conference at Fort Detrick, in Frederick, Maryland, July 13-16, 2017. We had a wonderful time learning about the local history and Gettysburg's battlefield history. I used the word wonderful because it was great to be with friends we only see once a year. We visited the Civil War Medical Museum, Old Fire House History Museum, The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and School.

Henrico and Chesterfield 4-H All Stars hosted an IFYE Su-Hyun Oh from South Korea from July 15-August 10, 2017. We participated in the 4-H All Star Summer Conference at the Northern Virginia (NOVA) 4-H Center July 21-21, 2017 working in the gardens and remodeling much needed repairs at the NOVA 4-H Center. This was a great community service project.

Chesterfield All Stars volunteered and taught leather craft classes at Harrowgate Elementary School July 18, 19, 26, and 27, 2017 during the Summer School Program. Butter churning, weaving and fabric making classes were taught at the Chesterfield County Museum about chores in the olden days. All Stars promoted the 4-H program and Virginia Cooperative Extension Service at the August 1, 2017 National Night Out at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Chesterfield. Chesterfield All Stars taught 20 students in a 4-day Cooking Camp workshop at Virginia State University how to prepare nutritious and delicious foods and etiquette. Thank you to Crystal Leonard and Debra Jones with Virginia Cooperative Extension, Family and Consumer Sciences at Virginia State University (VSU), Dr. Theresa Nartea, Assistant Professor, Extension Specialist-Marketing & Agribusiness, VSU, Ann Vargo, FCS SNAP-ED, Chesterfield Cooperative Extension, and Katrina Kirby, FCS Agent, Petersburg Cooperative Extension for planning and preparation for the Cooking Camp at VSU. It was exciting and a great success.

All Stars volunteered and worked at the Chesterfield County Fair from August 25-September 2, 2017 with the Chesterfield 4-H Youth Development Program. Chesterfield 4-H youth won many blue, red, and white ribbons and prize money.



## Smoke Signals from our Chapters

### **Northern 4-H All Star Chapter East Report – William E. Thomas, Chief**

A recognition picnic for 2017 Northern Chapter East new 4-H All Stars was held Sunday afternoon, August 27th at Graves Mt. Lodge in Syria. The meal was free for 2017 All Stars who were presented with a choice of a special designed t-shirt, polo shirt, or 4-H All Star jewelry. We had 23 4-H All Stars (three were 2017 4-H All Stars) and 14 guests for a total of 37 in attendance from seven counties.

Our silent auction was a success once again both in terms of funds raised and the interest in the activity. As a result of multiple generous donations and the auction, the District Treasury once again netted over \$600. That money is used to support district activities. Several All Stars purchased shirts. We introduced a polo for \$15 as an alternative to the t-shirt for \$10. Contact the Chapter Chief if interested.

Thanks to all who helped make our Summer Conference a success at the NOVA 4-H Center. We look forward to having more of our members at future conferences. As always, anyone from our Chapter who attends a state conference, receives scholarship assistance.

### **Skelton 4-H All Star Chapter - Billie Jean Elmer, Chief**

We were heartbroken by the sudden passing of one of our core Skelton Chapter members, Audrey Oliver Lee. There was a memorial at the Skelton 4-H Center on Sunday, October 15 from 2-4 pm. Pam Levinson coordinated the desert refreshments.

We volunteered for the Regotta at Skelton 4-H Center on July 29. This opportunity has allowed the 4-H All Stars to create a great contact with the Center and will allow us to be notified of other volunteer opportunities.

We are continuing to develop plans for hosting the Summer Conference in Lexington on July 20-22, 2018.

Several of us have found “new/older” 4-H All Stars who may not be interested in statewide or full chapter events but are interested in beginning to get involved in local 4-H All Star events and opportunities.

Our former District Advisor, Dara Booher, has left Virginia Cooperative Extension and we are searching for an advisor for the Skelton All Star Chapter.

### **Southwest Virginia Chapter, Deb Nester, Chief**

The Southwest Chapter has been busy planning for the 2018 Midwinter Conference to be held at the Southwest Virginia 4-H Center in Abingdon on February 2 – 4, 2018. Chapter members met in November to review the All Star Nomination Applications from Southwest Virginia counties and cities.



**Don't forget - We're on the web:**

**View the Virginia 4-H All Star Group:**

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Virginia\\_4-H\\_AllStars](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Virginia_4-H_AllStars)

**To Subscribe to the Group listserv:**

[Virginia\\_4-H\\_AllStars-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Virginia_4-H_AllStars-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

**To Post a message to the group:**

[Virginia\\_4-H\\_AllStars@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Virginia_4-H_AllStars@yahoogroups.com)

**For more information visit**

[http://www.4-h.ext.vt.edu/groups/allstars/4h\\_allstars.html](http://www.4-h.ext.vt.edu/groups/allstars/4h_allstars.html)

## **4-H All Star Summer Conference 2017**

The 2017 Virginia 4-H All Star Summer Conference was held July 21 - 23 at the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center near Front Royal. The focus of the weekend was on service, with participants providing approximately 80 hours of labor, sprucing up the Center. Weeding, pruning, mulching, painting, and cleaning provided opportunity to truly live out the All Stars' belief in Service.

For the first time in many years, the opportunity to be tapped at Summer conference was offered to 2017 candidates who could not be present for the tapping ceremony at 4-H Congress in June. Of the six offered the opportunity, three attended the full conference and were tapped in a Sunday morning ceremony.

NOVA 4-H Center Director Jennifer Carter, who started as Director earlier this year, was our banquet speaker. As always, the Chapters did a great job in providing table decorations, conducting the Memorial Service, handling registration and door prizes, working with the service project, and providing hospitality.

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**Thank you for supporting the Virginia 4-H All Stars!!!**