



Virginia 4-H All Star Chapter

4220 North Fork Road
Elliston, VA 24087

Non-Profit
Organization
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Smoke Signals from the Big Chief

Fall is Fast Becoming Winter....

As I write an update as Big Chief, I find that time seems to be continuously slipping by me faster since I retired than it felt when I was working full time. As I reflect on All Stars I feel as if I have much to excitedly highlight.

We had a magnificent tapping ceremony during the State 4-H Congress. We intentionally tried to engage All Stars who were at Congress but were not planning on being in the ceremony. Our Orientation was revamped into a family oriented Open House prior to the ceremony engaging the previously mentioned All Stars. Many All Stars returned to celebrate within the circle the achievements of those being initiated. Immediately after the tapping, we briefly met as a group to celebrate their induction and then Chapter leaders conducted the remaining of the orientation with a more personalize way of sharing information. (See the Scout Report in another section of the newsletter.)

July 18-21, nineteen Virginia All Stars traveled to Morgantown, WV to attend Interstate and celebrate West Virginia's 100th Anniversary of All Stars. We loved meeting with all Stars from Maryland and West Virginia and learning about historic places in our host state. We were especially thankful for the expertise of State 4-H Office Specialist, Chad Proudfoot, who shared much of his "growing up" memories and facts during our tour stops. Maryland invited everyone to attend the next Interstate in 2021.

As All Stars have traveled to state 4-H events, you may have noticed a mounted 4-H All Star Poster! This poster represents a campaign promoting the excitement of being an All Star and the many acts of service All Stars perform.... **"Sign the Star"** when you have a chance, knowing fellow All Stars are thankful of the many hours donated to help others in this organization and others!

We have begun discussion and brainstorming of our tapping ceremony and things we can do differently to make the ceremony more relevant to our younger members while maintaining the integrity of our purpose: honor and service. You will see information in this newsletter from our October Executive Committee meeting. We will continue discussions throughout this fall, Mid-Winters and the Spring.

We encourage you to join us at Mid-Winters in Luray February 1-2 for further tapping ceremony discussions, exciting local tours, our business meeting and awards banquet. Come one and come all, we need your support and input!

Billie Jean Elmer



December 2019 Edition



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>

Due: January 1, 2020

- * 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

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Registration
Virginia 4-H All Star
Midwinter Conference
Luray, Virginia
February 1 & 2, 2020

Name: _____ Unit: _____ Year Tapped: _____
Address _____
Number and Street City State Zip Code
Phone # _____ E-mail _____
Guest(s) _____

Registration deadline: 01/17/2019, Lodging Deadline 01/17/2020 Please Call The Mimslyn Inn, 540-743-5105
for lodging, state you are with The VA. 4-H All Stars, Lodging Rate -\$94 per night plus tax

	Cost	# People	Subtotal
Full Conference (Saturday Banquet, Registration)	\$52.00		
Sunday only registration	\$10.00		
Workshop or Community Service			
Tours or Activities			
Late Postmarked Fee (sent after 1/17/2020)	\$15.00		
Virginia 4-H All-Star Dues (if needed)	Annual-\$10		
	Life-\$75		
Optional Contributions:			
Keffer Scholarship Fund			
New Membership Fund			
Total:			

Special Needs-Dietary, Handicap or Other _____

Conference Guests, other than spouses, parents and/or children must be approved by the Big Chief.

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 that reflects the qualities of an All Star.

All Star Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date _____ (if All Star is under age 18)

Make Checks payable to Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars (\$10 returned check fee)
Send registration and check to: Randy & Irene Leech, 4220 North Ford Rd., Elliston, VA. 24087
Registration questions: Phone 540-268-5373-Home, E-mail: ileeche@vt.edu (Irene Leech)



Mimslyn Inn,
Luray, Virginia
February 1 & 2, 2020
Tentative Schedule

Friday, January 31*

7:30 p.m.—10:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, February 1*

6:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m. Breakfast on your own

8:30 a.m.—9:30 a.m. Executive Committee Meeting (if needed)

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Conference Registration

9:300 a.m.—11:00 a.m. Community Service Project (STARS & Pet Supplies for Elderly)

12 p.m.—1:00 p.m. Lunch on your own

1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. Tours on your own (Meet in the Lobby at 1 PM if you wish to go as a group)

4:15 p.m.—6:00 p.m. Business Meeting and Tapping Ceremony Changes

7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. Banquet

Sunday, February 2nd

6:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m. Breakfast on your own

9:15 a.m.—10:00 a.m. IFYE Meeting

10:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m.. Reflections

10:30 a.m.—11:15 a.m. Business Meeting (Membership Vote and Ceremony Reports)

11:15 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Chapter Meetings

Noon Hotel Check out



EdVentures Information

*Set for 1-4 PM on Saturday, unless otherwise noted - *Tours are Optional

Luray Caverns TBD

-Self Guided
-Good for Either Saturday or Sunday

Historic Downtown Luray Free

-Self Guided tour of Downtown Luray and Shops

Civil War Tour Free

-Self Guided Civil War Tour of Page County Sites and Landmarks
*Transportation provided by self.

<https://www.hmdb.org/results.asp?Related=16457>

Mimslyn Inn Historic Tour Free

Guided Tour of the Historic Hotel, which is host to our Conference
By: Mimslyn Inn Personnel

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

To Subscribe to the Group listserv:

Virginia_4-H_AllStars-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To Post a message to the group:

Virginia_4-H_AllStars@yahoogroups.com

Facebook: Virginia 4-H All Stars

For more information visit

http://www.4-h.ext.vt.edu/groups/allstars/4h_allstars.html



WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

The greatest honor that can be attained in Virginia 4-H is the induction into 4-H All Stars. Typically, younger members are inducted (ages 15-19) but adults (volunteers and VCE professionals) are tapped as well. International guests tapped are tapped as Honorary Members.

This past October, the Executive Committee initiated discussion regarding the Tapping Ceremony. The tapping ceremony was prioritized as an action item in our strategic plan which began in 2017. As we move to 2020, we want to make sure our ceremony is relevant to the young members we are tapping. The goal of our discussion, brainstorming and ultimately changes is to ensure our tapping ceremony promotes the honor being bestowed while highlighting the motto of All Stars: SERVICE.

The Executive committee also reviewed Virginia 4-H policy established in 2001 regarding the usage of Native American verbiage and names. We encourage you, our membership, to reflect as we have as both an individual and in groups using the questions below to generate your thoughts. Then we ask you to review the “first round notes” we generated from our discussions. We will continue discussions at Midwinters and our April Executive Committee meeting. We will utilize the discussions and suggestions for the Tapping Ceremony in June 2020

Think about it....

All Star Tapping Ceremony questions/conversation starters...

1. What is the purpose to hold a 4-H All Star Tapping Ceremony and how can we reflect what we teach regarding 4-H into the ceremony?
2. What are parts of the ceremony you most like?
3. What concerns you about the ceremony?
4. What are some changes that could be made?
5. What words/verbiage need to be looked at for the ceremony?
6. What do you envision for music for the tapping ceremony? Do you have suggestions?
7. What should or could be recommended for the attire for 4-H All Stars and inductees for the ceremony?

Report on Virginia 4-H All Star Executive Committee Discussion About Tapping Ceremony

Problems identified by others:

Ceremony viewed as cult activity - All white considered cult dress - Appear to chant

American Indian and religious inclusions do not represent social justice youth care about or Extension rules

1. Purpose of Tapping Ceremony:
 - Highest 4-H Honor: Recognize the achievements and leadership of senior 4-H’ers, volunteers, and faculty.
 - Motivate new members to focus on active Service and continued involvement in 4-H and 4-H All Star Chapters.
2. What should we retain to continue our heritage?
 - Circle
 - Introducing each new member
 - “Guides” to bring in new members
 - Flowers
 - Music before ceremony
3. What should we change?
 - Eliminate kneeling
 - Eliminate Native American references/terms
 - Replace religious songs
 - Replace crossed arms with “ushering arm”
 - Replace Tribal Benediction
4. Verbiage to change:
 - Officer names: Chief to President; Lesser Chief to Vice President; Recording Scribe to Recording Secretary; Corresponding Scribe to Corresponding Secretary; Scout to Guide. (Requires Constitution/ByLaw Change)
 - Response of Executive: Instead of “admit” – Welcome, congratulations, etc.
 - Native American language, especially tribal benediction
 - Should All Stars answer anything as a group? (is it showing active involvement of all 4-H All Stars, sincerity of message?)
 - Arrange so “Guide” introduces new members facing audience; then each shakes hands with executive officer
 - End with those in Circle and New Members both facing out to audience as repeat 4-H Pledge
5. Music suggestions:
 - Find some
 - Recruit a choir – consider 4-H All Stars not singing (Criticized for chanting; cult-like)
6. Proposed dress:
 - Dress white shirt/top and dark (navy or black) pants or skirt
 - Tie for men is optional
 - Any dress shoes
 - Consider wearing white 4-H All Star polo shirt
 - Consider getting stoles/scarves/or similar item
7. Other actions to follow up on:
 - Educate parents about what is to happen – post video/pictures on website to view before event
 - Send you’ve been selected/save the date letter early
 - Follow up with details in second letter



Giving Opportunities

Wayne M. Keffer Scholarship Fund

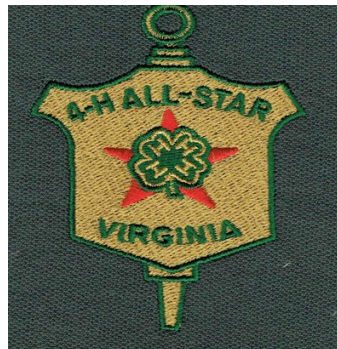
In 1991, the College Scholarship Fund was renamed in honor of Wayne M. Keffer. Wayne was tapped as a 4-H All Star in 1963, received a Virginia Chapter college scholarship in 1966, served as Big Chief in 1972, and was inducted into the Virginia 4-H All Star Hall of Fame in 1985. Wayne's service as 4-H agent, District Director, and State Director positively influenced the lives of thousands of Virginians. In order that his legacy might continue to live on, the Scholarship Fund now bears his name. Two scholarships are awarded each year for \$800.00 each.

Please consider donating to the Keffer Scholarship Fund to help continue this opportunity for young 4-H All Stars. With your support, the State Chapter may be able to increase the value of the awarded scholarships. Send your tax-deductible contribution to: The Virginia 4-H Foundation for Wayne M. Keffer Scholarship, Attn: Emily Wong, 114 Hutcheson Hall (0402), 250 Drillfield Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

New Star Fund

Would you like to see more and younger 4-H All Stars at our State events? Do you ever wonder why they do not attend? For some of them, it may be the cost. The age when many of the new initiates are tapped is usually a very busy and exciting time in their lives as they begin to prepare for life beyond high school and funds at this time can be tight. To make their participation easier, the New Star Fund was created a number of years ago. For some recently tapped 4-H All Stars, it only takes one conference for them to connect with fellow All Stars, which encourages continued attendance. The New Star Fund is used to defray some or all of the costs of a conference, fund young 4-H All Star activities and/or defray conference cost for first-time attendees, no matter their age.

Please consider donating to the New Star Fund. This is a wonderful service to the organization that will help to ensure the continuation and growth of the Chapter by nurturing our younger 4-H All Stars. Donations should be sent to Randy and Irene Leech, 4220 North Fork Road, Elliston, VA 24087. Please make your check with "New Star Fund."



Embroidered 4-H All Star Polo, sweatshirt, notecards, etc.

To promote and market the Virginia 4-H All Star Program and Brand, the Executive Committee voted to offer an embroidered polo shirt to its members. Please contact Shields Jones (Albemarle 1969) at shields@nichollsauction.com or 540.220.1130 to receive an information about this program.



4-H All Star Chapter News

Airfield 4-H All Star Chapter—Jean Powers

The Airfield Chapter reviewed 4-H All Star Nominations on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at the Chesapeake Extension Office. Chapter members joined the State Membership Committee at the Powhatan Office to assist with the final review of chapter nomination forms. Newly tapped Airfield 4-H All Stars have been sharing their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions regarding the Tapping Ceremony. Their reflections have been shared at the Executive Committee meetings. Airfield Chapter 4-H All Stars have been working within their local units assisting with county fairs, livestock shows, summer day camps, harvest fairs and other special programming unique to the unit.

NOVA West 4-H All Star Chapter Report—Geraldine Cubbage

The NOVA West Chapter met on Wednesday, September 26, 2019 at the Shenandoah County Government Center, Woodstock, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 5:55 p.m. by Geraldine Cubbage, Big Chief. Discussion was held regarding the 2020 Midwinter Conference that NOVA West is hosting. Suggestions were made by several members to be discussed with the Executive Board when they meet on Saturday, October 5, 2019. The date to review 4-H All Star applications for the Chapter is November 4, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned.

Skelton 4-H All Star Chapter Report—Pam Levinson

Since Midwinters 2019, a number of Chapter members attended 4-H Congress and Interstate in West Virginia. On Friday, November 15 a group met in Roanoke to review All Star Applications. Midwinters 2020 will be held in Luray, Virginia and Skelton Chapter will be responsible for table decorations and favors. Summer Conference 2020, Skelton Chapter will be responsible for name tags, registration and door prizes. Help is always welcomed and appreciated. Please contact Pamela Levinson, shlevinson@aol.com.

State 4-H All Star Application Forms Review

December 17, 2019—10:00 a.m.

Powhatan County Extension Office, 3910 Old Buckingham Road,
Powhatan, VA 23139

Please come to review the 4-H All Star Application forms.
A small donation for pizza for lunch will be collected.

The Virginia Star

2019 Ceremonial Committee Report

On Wednesday, June 26th, 2019, the Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars initiated 77 (64 youth and 13 adults) new members and an additional 6 international visitors from Senegal, Greece, and Taiwan. We would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Ceremony a success!

- * Randy and Irene Leech for the use of their sound system, for helping with the ceremony set up, for ordering flowers, and for all the rest of the background work they do.
- * Irene Leech, Cynthia Rowles, Pam Levinson and Billie Jean Elmer for putting together the star nametags, putting the certificates in the frames and Irene Leech for making the membership cards presented at the ceremony.
- * Irene Leech and Kayla Blincoe who worked the registration table before and during the ceremony.
- * Pam Levinson, Mary Elmer, Kate Turner, Judy Ann Fray, Michelle Cock, and Amanda Adams for preparing flowers for the ceremony.
- * Robert Tillotson for serving as Scout Eagle, both at practices and during the ceremony.
- * Ray Daubenspeck for serving as Chair of the Ceremonial Committee, leading ceremony practices and for organizing everyone before and during the ceremony. Dennis Bagnell for insuring the circle was set up according to tradition.
- * Dr. Bob Meadows, Sarah Gregory, Shawnda Gregory, Judy Ann Fray and Jerry Reynolds for serving as the Ceremony Song Leaders.
- * Billie Jean Elmer and Amanda Adams for leading the ceremony.
- * Scouts: Michelle Cock (serving as State Scout for the ceremony), Robert Tillotson (Scout Eagle), Dennis Bagnell, Alec Panten, Jennifer Dowdy-Panten, Brycen Stratton, Stephanie Miller, Bertha Durbin, Kari Sponaugle, Laura Beach, and Kim Mayo.
- * Kayla Blincoe for preparing the lists for the scouts prior to the ceremony.
- * Glenda Snyder, Sam Fisher, and the rest of the State 4-H Staff for Congress logistics in coordination with the All Star tapping ceremony including providing and setting up chairs, tables, tents, shuttles, copying orientation materials and other supplies the day of the ceremony.
- * Jeremy Johnson, State 4-H Program Leader for his support and encouragement of the 4-H All Stars.
- * Billie Jean Elmer, Pam Levinson, Irene Leech and Pam Levinson for organizing the items for the new member orientation packets divided by chapters for orientation after the ceremony.
- * Billie Jean Elmer for creating, Irene Leech for printing and Kate Turner for mounting the posters for the 4-H All Star Open House prior to the tapping ceremony.
- * Brian Hairston for preparing a new 4-H All Star information session at the Monday night picnic.
- * Kayla Blincoe, Kim Mayo, Kate Turner, Mary Elmer, Sarah Gregory, Mary Beth Lerch, Pam Levinson, Michelle Cock, Amanda Adams, Kendra Young, Tiffany Heishman, Dakota Funkhouser and Kim Monroe for leading the chapter new member orientation groups.
- * Cathy Howland for organizing hosts for the Open House prior to tapping and Cathy Howland, Kathy Alstat, Kim Mayo, Robbie Morrison, Kelly Rose and Jonette Mungo for serving as hosts.
- * Cynthia Rowles for selling 4-H All Star jewelry and note cards.
- * Mary Elmer, Barbara Board and Kitty Board for lunch logistics for 4-H All Stars setting up War Memorial Chapel and the tapping area.
- * Barbara Board and Kitty Board for serving as hostesses outside of the War Memorial Chapel inviting parents and guests to the Open House.
- * Everyone who helped to set up for and clean up after the ceremony.
- * Everyone who participated in the circle during the ceremony.

In Honor and Memory of Our Fellow 4-H All Stars:

Margaret Brumback Douglas passed away on Monday, November 26, 2018. She was born in 1932 in Winchester, Virginia, the daughter of the late Harman and Fannie Brumback. She was a graduate of James Wood High School, Class of 1951 and retired from the United States Postal Service after 25+ years of service. Mrs. Douglas was a member of the Frederick County Board of Supervisors, Back Creek Magisterial District, for eight years. She was also a member of Frederick County Farm Bureau, Frederick County 4-H, volunteered at the American Red Cross, and a participant in a senior citizens' bowling league. She was a member of Relief United Methodist Church. Her husband, James M. Douglas, whom she married on April 13, 1954 preceded her in death in 2017.

Margaret Ann "Maggie" Amos, 76, of Critz, VA passed away on Friday, October 4, 2019 Stanleytown, VA. She was born on October 25, 1942 to the late Annie Sue Nelson Amos and Wade Russell Amos. She was a member of Nettle Ridge United Methodist Church. She graduated from Hardin Reynolds High School, Radford University and received her Masters Degree from Virginia Tech. Prior to returning to Patrick County she taught school in Pittsylvania County and served as an Extension Agent, Home Economics in Giles County and Botetourt County. She served as the West Central Extension District 4-H Program Leader and then worked as a 4-H specialist at Virginia Tech.

Lloyd Hunter Hicks (Col.) of Mechanicsville, VA, passed away on Monday, November 4, 2019, at his home in Edenton, NC. Born in Suffolk, VA on November 11, 1949, he was the son of Martha Hicks Ryals of Suffolk and the late Lewis Rawls Hicks. Lloyd was a 1971 graduate of Virginia Tech. Retired from the Virginia Cooperative Extension after 36 years of employment, as a 4-H Agent and a 4-H Center Director. He also retired from the Army Reserves following a military career that spanned 38 years. He was an active member of the Fairfield Ruritan Club. Lloyd was happiest sharing his river home with family and friends and spending time at his farm.

Please email the Virginia Star to me!!!

Why should I have *The Virginia Star* Emailed to me?

- * Receive the newsletter quicker
- * Save postage
- * Save paper



If you would prefer to receive "The Virginia Star" by e-mail please send an e-mail to va4hallstars@gmail.com with your full name, mailing address and the email address you would prefer added to the mailing list. Your name will be submitted to William Thomas to be removed from the Star snail mailing list.

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