



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

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## Return Service Requested



# The Virginia Star

The official publication of the Virginia 4-H All Stars.

May 2025 edition

### Chief Notes.... We continue to move forward and serve.....

To begin, I would like to thank Jean Powers and Rose Talbott along with the assistance of Kevin Cubbage and others for planning and hosting our Mid-Winter Conference in Virginia Beach in February.

Hopefully everyone has made it through the roller coaster weather we've experienced this spring. 80 degrees some days (causing some flowers to bloom early), to the 20s and snow in the south other days.

As you read my notes, Easter celebrations will be past as well as redbud and dogwood flowers giving way to fully leafed trees. We look forward to graduations, 4-H Congress and it's State contests, greeting previous friends and making new ones. And of course, our welcoming of 90 plus NEW 4-H All Stars on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June. Many thanks to our local 4-H clubs and chapters who have recruited and are sending the best 4-Hers and honorees to Blacksburg to join us in our service to others. Please plan on attending.

Our committee dynamics and make up has changed to include more All Stars becoming involved (All Star extension agents and non-extension agents alike). Hopefully you will agree to become involved when asked by one of our committee chairpersons. New energy and ideas are always welcome.

Billie Jean Elmer and the Summer Conference committee have planned a great time for us in the Radford area July 19-20. Please see their article elsewhere in the Star along with the registration form. It will be a great, fun filled family weekend. I hope all of you will join us. We will have a live/silent auction in honor of Sarah Gregory, to help with repairs of a 4-H Educational Center cabin that was impacted by a storm. Your donation of auction items would be appreciated.

Interstate Conference will be in Hot Springs, West Virginia, July 30 - August 3. More information to come.

In closing, I hope you are all well and enjoying spring and it's beauty, and are looking forward to the summer and all it holds for us. Thanks to all who have provided help and service to those in need. Please continue to volunteer and give service wherever and whenever you are able.

Yours in service,

Jim

### Dates to remember:

**Virginia 4-H Congress** - June 24-27, 2025

- Judges needed June 25

- All Star tapping June 26

**Virginia 4-H All Star Summer Conference** – July 19-20, 2025 Radford, VA

**Interstate 4-H All Star Conference** – July 30-August 3, White Sulphur Springs, WV

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“Follow the River” to an Outstanding 2025 VA 4-H All Star Summer Conference, July 18-20, 2025 in Radford, Virginia. This is a family fun event! Register using the form in The Star or online at <https://bit.ly/4HAllStarSum>

- There are **two service projects** planned:
- AGAPE Center (assist with cleaning up/organizing the warehouse both of food and clothes storage) & bonus tour of the garden beds
  - Create no-sew blankets

Lunch is "on your own". After lunch, we will have 2 simultaneous tours: (1) Glencoe Museum & Gallery and Mary Draper Ingles Statue OR (2) a narrated walking tour of the Radford University campus. Immediately after the tours will be the IFYE Meeting followed by the 4-H All Star business meeting.

We are "Following the River" to a Night of Fun at BT's Radford. There will be a Mary Draper Ingles guest speaker to share about her heroic journey as she followed the river home. Enjoy fellowship and fun as we play bingo and games with prizes.

On Sunday, we will "Gather at the River" for the 4-H All Star Reflections, business and chapter meetings in Bissett Park. There will be a “Follow the River” family scavenger hunt and games.

**Hotel accommodations** have been reserved at **LaQuinta Inn by Wyndham Radford** (1450 Tyler Ave. Radford, VA 24141) for \$72 a night. The hotel has a continental breakfast, is pet friendly and has a fitness center. Reservations may be made by calling (540) 633-6800.

Register for the Conference

Register for the 2025 VA 4-H All Star Summer Conference by July 1, 2025. Late registrations will result in a \$15 late fee.

Use the Registration Link or QR Code to go to the conference registration form. Complete the form online and submit. Regardless of how you register, all payments are made payable to the “Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars” and mailed to:  
Randy & Irene Leech  
4220 North Folk Road  
Elliston, VA 24087

<https://bit.ly/4HAllStarSum>



Questions

If you have any questions, please contact:  
  
Billie Jean Elmer at [bjelmer@live.com](mailto:bjelmer@live.com) or call  
  
804-586-3706.

“Follow the River”  
Virginia 4-H All Star Summer Conference Registration  
Radford, Virginia  
July 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Tapped: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Number and Street City State Zip Code

Phone # (during conference) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration deadline: 7/1/2025, Lodging Deadline: Please call LaQuinta Inn by Wyndham Radford (1450 Tyler Ave. Radford, VA 24141). The hotel has a continental breakfast, and is pet friendly. Reservations may be made by calling (540) 633-6800, and state you are with The VA Chapter of 4-H All Stars. The Lodging Rate is \$72 per night plus tax.**

	Cost	# People	Subtotal
Full Conference (Saturday Banquet, Registration)	\$65.00		
Children 12 and under	\$15 per child		
Sunday Only Registration	\$25.00		
Saturday Dinner Only	\$35.00		
Late Postmarked Fee (sent after 7/1/2025)	\$15.00		
Virginia 4-H All Star Dues (if needed)	Annual-\$10		
	Life-\$75		
Optional Contributions: Keffer Scholarship Fund			
Optional Contributions: New Membership Fund			
Total:			

Special Dietary Needs \_\_\_\_\_

The Chief must approve Conference Guests other than spouses, parents, and/or children. **Code of Conduct:** All Conference registrants must read and sign the following Code of Conduct. As a Virginia 4-H All Star event participant, I will conduct myself during 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 the Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars (\$10 returned check fee)**  
**Print and Mail Registration and Check to: Randy & Irene Leech, 4220 North Ford Rd., Elliston, VA. 24087**



Registration & Conference Questions – 540-382-5790, E-mail: [kkyoung@vt.edu](mailto:kkyoung@vt.edu) (Kendra Young)  
**Registration can also be submitted electronically @**  
**<https://bit.ly/4HAllStarSum>**

### **Dress Code for 4-H All Stars standing in the Circle at the 4-H All Star Tapping Ceremony**

Black slacks or skirts, white modest tops, black shoes or sandals.

No ties

Limited jewelry including watches, wedding rings, and simple or 4-H All Star earrings, and 4-H All Star pins or charms.



### **Silent/Live Auction Planned -Support Jamestown 4-H Educational Center Restoration of Cabin While Honoring-Sarah Gregory by Jim Hepner**

4-H All Star Summer Conference is a few months away, but we want to start planning for and collecting items for our auction in Radford in July.

Those of you that attended the 2024 Summer conference in Woodstock may remember we raised \$3100 to assist Spencer and Diaz with expenses for their Virginia 4-H/Chile Exchange. Mr. Steve Wood suggest-

ed we do the same type of auction to raise funds and contribute to the restoration of a cabin at Jamestown 4-H Educational Center, Williamsburg, Virginia.

One of the cabins at the 4-H Center had significant damage during a storm. Crucial repairs are necessary to ensure the 4-H Center can continue to operate at full capacity for 4-H Camps this summer. The donation to the camp will be made in honor of Sarah Gregory, 4-H All Star and 4-H Volunteer. Sarah has been taking 4-H campers to the Jamestown 4-H Education 4-H Center every year since 1979. Ms. Sarah has been a very loyal, active member of Virginia 4-H All Stars in her unit, district, and at the State level. She has touched the lives of so many 4-Hers and All Stars. Sarah is very honored that we will contribute to the camp restoration in this manner.

We have asked Ms. Sarah Kohrs (Senk Pottery) to make 24 coffee mugs and 12 soup bowls for the benefit auction. She made 4-H soup bowls for our auction last summer. Other items auctioned last year were plants, baked goods, birdfeeders, crafts, gift cards that could be used throughout the state, and items donated by businesses. We also received monetary donations.

**Please bring your auction donations with you at registration check-in. Purchases can be made by check or cash.**

### **Your Help is Needed!**

Please send information about any 4-H All Stars who have passed away since the 2024 Summer 4-H All Star Conference to Barbara Derflinger at her email address: [baderflinger@gmail.com](mailto:baderflinger@gmail.com). She is working with the Reflections at the 2025 4-H All Star Summer Conference and wants to include them in the program.

# *The Virginia Star*

2025 4-H All Star Midwinter Conference participants



### **2025 4-H All Star Midwinter Conference Award Recipients!**

**Hall of Fame Award: Rory Nansel**, is a 1998 4-H All Star from Shenandoah County who actively volunteers to support the county 4-H program as well as community organizations. He has served as Advisor, Treasurer and Lesser Chief at the unit and district levels and as Advisor on the State level. He is involved and gives leadership to many Shenandoah County 4-H All Star activities and programs. He volunteers with many county 4-H programs and is actively involved with 4-H International programs. He has chaperoned 4-H trips to Japan, Finland and the Dominican Republic. He also volunteers in the community as a member of the church choir, a community choir, fire fighter, EMT, etc.

**Bradshaw Service Award: Lizzie Rhodes**, 2013 4-H All Star from Shenandoah County, received the Bradshaw Service Award for her 13 years of service. She is active in several county groups/4-H programs such as the County 4-H Council, Dairy Show at the County Fair, and 4-H Honor Club as a 4-H Volunteer and 4-H All Star. She serves as the 4-H All Star Scribe and communicates with local All Stars about activities and opportunities for them. She maintains the county 4-H All Star mailing list and she is a role model for younger 4-H members and All Stars.

**C. Dean Allen Award for Excellence: Carly Wright**, 2006 4-H All Star from Loudoun County, is the 4-H Extension Agent in Loudoun County. Since she began work in 2013, Loudoun County has had 40 newly tapped 4-H All Stars. She has made the effort to involve 4-H All Stars in the local program by including them on the Extension Leadership Council, serve on the 4-H Honor club, and she involves them in planning, organizing and conducting programs and activities. Four families have hosted 4-H international program visitors. Four County 4-Hers have participated in the Dominican Republic program. Caryl promotes 4-H international programs to 4-Hers in Loudoun annually.

**Wayne M. Keffer Memorial Scholarship (2 \$1,000 Awards Presented):**

**Kate Turner**, a 4-H All Star from Surry County, is pursuing a master's degree at Radford University in General Curriculum Special Education to be Special Education teacher and receive a full licensure as a secondary special education teacher.

**Lindsay Zirkle**, 4-H All Star from Shenandoah County, has interest in the medical field and is pursuing an education to become a Physician's Assistant.





## Virginia 4-H All Star Summer Conference 2025 Tentative Agenda

### Friday, July 18, 2025

7:00 – Executive Committee Meeting (LaQuinta)

### Saturday, July 19, 2025

7:00-9:00 – Continental Breakfast (LaQuinta)

8:00 – Registration open (LaQuinta Lobby)

9:00 -11:45— Service Projects (this includes travel time)

\*AGAPE of the NRV – Christiansburg

\*No-Sew Blankets – LaQuinta Lobby

11:45-1:30 – Lunch on your own.

1:30-3:00 Tours

\*Glencoe Museum (Local Radford History and information on Mary Draper Ingles)

\*Walking tour of Radford University campus

3:00-4:00 – IFYE Meeting

4:00-4:30 – Tapping Ceremony (if needed)

4:30- Business Meeting (Silent Auction)

6:00 - Dinner (BT's Restaurant) and Game Night -speaker sharing the Mary Draper Ingles story and history of the family since that time. Immediately after the speaker we will begin BINGO/Family Game Night (Live Auction)

### Sunday, July 20, 2025

7:00-9:00 – Continental Breakfast and check out

9:30 – 11:30 Location: Bisset Park

9:30- Reflections

10:00 – Business Meeting and Chapter Meetings

11:00 – Follow the River Family Scavenger Hunt

11:30 – Departure



## Virginia 4-H All Star Tapping Ceremony Practice and Ceremony

### Squires Student Center – Commonwealth Ballroom

### Virginia Tech - June 26, 2025 – 2:00 p.m. Schedule

8:30 a.m.

4-H All Star Ceremony Setup

9:45 a.m.—11:15 a.m.

4-H All Star Consecration (Tapping) Ceremony Practice

12:45 p.m.

Shuttle from the Coliseum Parking lot to Squires begins

1:00 p.m.—1:30 p.m.

Initiates Check in

2:00 p.m.

4-H All Star Consecration (Tapping) Ceremony

2:45 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

Orientation for new 4-H All Stars following the Ceremony

**Parking**—If you are driving to Virginia Tech for the Ceremony or have friends and family coming for the Ceremony, be sure to share this information with them.

**\*\*\*You must purchase a Parking Permit to park on the Virginia Tech campus or you will receive a ticket. Everyone coming to the Virginia Tech campus for the day must have a parking permit. All Day parking is \$8.00 per vehicle.**

Please pay attention to the signage in the parking lots and make sure you park in the correct location.

To purchase your parking permit, you may do any of the following options:

Guests can download and use the [free ParkMobile app](https://parking.vt.edu/parking/parkmobile.html) to purchase parking in a range of flexible time increments or a daily permit for \$8. Here is the link for Park Mobile information. <https://parking.vt.edu/parking/parkmobile.html>

Guests may stop by Parking Services at 505 Beamer Way (7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday) prior to going to their destination to purchase their daily pass. Be sure to take the make, model, and year of your vehicle as well as license tag number with you.

**Suggested Parking Areas** - You may park in the Coliseum Parking Lot F/S/V/C/G which is near the Coliseum and Lane Stadium and Parking Services. Look for the 4-H signs at the Coliseum Parking lot.

**Squires Student Center Parking**- You may wish to park across the street from the Squires Student Center called Squires Lot F/S/V/C/G.

**SHUTTLE SERVICE FROM THE COLISEUM PARKING LOT TO THE SQUIRES STUDENT CENTER**- The State 4-H Office is offering shuttle service from the Coliseum Parking Lot for 4-H All Star initiates, families, and friends to the Squires Student Center for the Tapping Ceremony. The shuttle service will also be available at the end of the Ceremony and again after the Orientation.

**\*\*\*The shuttle will begin running from the Coliseum Parking Lot to the Squires Student Center at 12:45 p.m. Look for 2-3 vans. Please tell the driver whether you will need to ride the shuttle back to the Coliseum Parking Lot after the Ceremony or after the Orientation Session. If needed, the shuttle will depart from the drop off location at Squires to the Coliseum Parking Lot.**

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Glenda M. Snyder at 540-521-9647 or [gsnyder@vt.edu](mailto:gsnyder@vt.edu).

**Check In**—All parents, friends and relatives of initiates who come for the Tapping Ceremony must check in at the table outside the Commonwealth Ballroom.



# The Virginia Star

Holiday Lake			NOVA-East & West			Airfield		
Chief			Chiefs			Chief		
Vacant			<u><b>Kim Monroe (East)</b></u> VCE-Loudoun kmonroe@vt.edu 703.777.0373 <u><b>Jim Hepner (West)</b></u> kathhep@shentel.net 540-335-1196			<u><b>Jean Powers</b></u> jeanpowers@aol.com 757.421.3715(h) 757.567.3465(c)		
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All Star Advisor			All Star Advisor			All Star Advisor		
<u><b>Kim Mayo</b></u> VCE- Fluvanna kmayo@vt.edu 434.491.1950			<u><b>Rory Nansel</b></u> nansel@shentel.net 540.333.6219			<u><b>Connie Dalton</b></u> conniedbryant@hotmail.com 540.239.6848		
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<u><b>Glenda Snyder</b></u> State 4-H Office gsnyder@vt.edu 540.521.9647			<u><b>Kim Monroe</b></u> VCE-Loudoun kmonroe@vt.edu 703.777.0373					

### 2025 4-H All Stars Interstate Conference

July 31 - Aug 3 White Sulfur Springs, WV

**Thursday, July 31**  
**Schoolhouse Hotel**  
3:00- Registration Open  
\*Dinner on your own\*  
7:00- Business Meeting

**Friday, August 1**  
8:00- Breakfast  
8:45- BarnWood  
9:45- Travel to **New River Gorge**  
11:00- Choice of Bridge  
Walk/Hiking/Boating  
12:30- Lunch @ Black Bear Bakery  
2:00- Travel Back to Hotel  
3:30- Free Time/Socialize  
**Greenbrier Resort**  
5:00- Choice of Greenbrier Bunker  
Tour, Grounds Tour, or Afternoon Tea  
7:00- \*Dinner at Draper's\*

**Saturday, August 2**  
8:00- Breakfast  
8:30- Quilt Craft - Wren's Nest Barn  
11:00- Travel to **Beckley**  
12:00- \*Lunch/Explore the Tamarack\*  
1:30- Travel to **Beckley Exhibition**  
**Coal Mine**  
2:00- Tours of Mine & Village  
4:30- Travel to **Greenbrier County 4-H Camp**  
6:00- Dinner with our 4-Hers

**Sunday, August 3**  
7:00- Breakfast  
**Journey Home**

\*Indicates Meal Cost to Participant\*

[Click to Register Today](#)



Register at this link: <https%3A//www.wv4hallstars.org/events>



4-H All Stars making cards as part of the Service Project.



4-H All Stars: William& Susan Thomas and Billie Jean Elmer.





## Shenandoah Co. 4-H All Star Chapter Celebrates Award Winners

Two members of the Shenandoah Co. Chapter of 4-H All Stars were recognized as award winners during the 2025 MidWinter Conference in VA Beach. Lizzie Rhodes (Shen. '13) received the Bradshaw Service award for her 11 years of service. Lizzie made a seamless transition to serving as a 4-H volunteer after she graduated from 4-H. She serves as a 4-H Advisor for our Honor Club and Co. 4-H Council and also serves as Scribe for the County and District All Star Chapters. When Lizzie came to MidWinters, she thought she was going to give a speech to recognize our local chapter about why she stayed involved in 4-H. Surprise! She shared that she stayed involved to give back to the organization that she benefited from when she was a shy 4-H'er who was afraid to speak in front of people.

Rory Nansel (Shen '99) was recognized as a new Hall of Fame member. While Rory did not grow up in 4-H in Nebraska, he jumped in feet first when he met and married a VA 4-H Agent, 36 years ago. He has supported most local and many district and state 4-H programs, including giving leadership to 4-H International Trips to Japan, Finland and the Dominican Republic 8 different years. He has judged, taught classes, engineered sound systems, worked with inbound FLEX and Japanese exchange students and host families, and done whatever was needed to help with the Co. Fair 4-H/FFA Livestock Shows and Sale. He has held All Star offices at the county and district and is currently a State Advisor.



Shenandoah 4-H All Stars with Rory Nansel, 2025 4-H All Star Hall of Fame recipient.

## Photos from the 2025 4-H All Star Midwinter Conference.



Diaz Tompkins, 4-H Delegate in the 2024 VA 4-H Chile Exchange shares about his experiences and thanks the All Stars for their support.



4-H All Stars at Reflections during the 2025 4-H All Star Midwinter Conference.

**Don't Forget!**

**We're on the web:**

**Look for us on Facebook—Virginia 4-H All Stars**

**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)**