Greetings Virginia 4-H All Stars!

What an honor it is to have been elected to serve as your State 4-H All Star Big Chief this year. Thank you for putting your trust in me! I am looking forward to learning as I go and balancing the challenges with the rewards of leadership. I began 4-H in Culpeper County in 1998 at the age of nine in the Heads Up! horse club, where I held nearly every office at least once. Soon, I expanded to 4-H summer camp, public speaking competitions, participation in the Culpeper-Madison-Rappahannock Farm Fair, and eventually induction into the Culpeper 4-H Honor Club. Due to lack of consistent 4-H Agents in Culpeper, I ended up joining the Madison Centaur 4-H horse club, holding offices, joining competition teams, and pursuing my goal of being inducted into the Virginia 4-H All Stars. At the 2005 Virginia State 4-H Congress, standing side-by-side with my horse club leader, I was inducted as a Madison, 2005 Virginia 4-H All Star. The following year I aged out of 4-H and moved to Amherst, VA where I attended Sweet Briar College, earning an A.B. in History. I transferred biology credits to Randolph College where I received the equivalent of a B.S. in Biology and Chemistry. After re-connecting with my former 4-H horse club leader, I began volunteering with the 4-H horse program and pretty quickly ended up applying for the Caroline County 4-H Agent position, which I officially began in October 2013. I’ve spent the last two years first as shadow Scribe and then as the Recording Scribe for the 4-H All Star Executive Board, before being elected to serve as Big Chief this year.

As anyone who knows me can tell you, I love words and using them to create imagery which will inspire the reader. In that spirit, I would like to start off my time as Big Chief with a few focus words for our 4-H All Star Chapter to consider, discuss, and perhaps act on. One of my favorite words is passion. As 4-H All Stars, we all have a burning passion inside of us for working with youth, to help them become the strongest and best versions of themselves. Our passion is bright enough to illuminate even the darkest corner of these kid’s lives while celebrating their joys and victories! We carry our passion into contests, camps, clubs, homes, and hearts. Take some time this year to reflect on what parts of your time in 4-H have meant the most to you. Who inspired you? Who held your hand? Who believed in you? And think about how you can become that passionate person in the life of another young 4-Her.

Next, I present the word tradition. Virginia 4-H, of which we are an integral part, is steeped in tradition. From Native American tribal songs, to camp packs, to the clover and our colors of green and white, and a tradition of endless giving, we have a unique set of traditions that govern their ways of giving back to the 4-H program, socializing with each other, and inducting in the next generations of Virginia 4-H All Stars. Traditions give us a sense of belonging and history. They add color, beauty, and order to our proceedings. Traditions bind us together and provide memories that will last a lifetime.

(continued on page 3)
"BY AIR, LAND OR SEA EXPERIENCE HAMPTON'S HISTORY"
February 5 - 7, 2016

4-H All Star Mid-Winter Conference Registration Form

Name: ____________________________ (Male/Female) Name on name tag: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ____________________________ Zip: ____________________________
Home Phone: (_____)__________________ Cell Phone: (______)____________________________
E-mail: ____________________________ Unit & Year Tapped: ____________________________
Guest(s): ____________________________ M/F ____________________________ M/F ____________________________
Special Needs/Requests: ____________________________

Full Conference (not including tour choice) (meeting facilities, banquet dinner) $50.00
TOUR- Virginia Air & Space Center (includes IMAX film) $17.50
Seniors $15.50
TOUR- Hampton History Museum $3.00
TOUR- Virginia Tech Seafood AREC (Applied Research and Extension Educational Center) Free
First Time Attendee Discount $10.00

9:00 am to 9:00 pm

Meal: Buffet (Down South Buffet: Creamy Cole Slaw Southern Potato Salad, Fried Chicken, BBQ Pork Ribs, Sweet Cornbread and Biscuits with Whipped Honey Butter, Braised Collard Greens, Baked Mac 'n Cheese, Cheddar Mashed Potatoes, Warm Apple Cobbler & Chef's Pie, Sweet Iced Tea with Lemon)

Saturday Box Lunch (optional) (Ordered in advance from Cosmic Café @ VA Air & Space Center) $5.00

Saturday Banquet Dinner – Buffet (meeting facilities) $35.00

Make checks payable to: Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars ($10 returned check fee)
Mail to Irene and Randy Leech, Treasurers, 4220 North Fork Rd., Elliston, VA 24087
Registrations can be emailed by 9:00 am on January 22, 2016 to: Irene Leech @ ileech@vt.edu or Randy Leech @ randy.leech@aecom.com

A late charge of $5 is due with all registration postmarked after the deadline

Virginia Star Editor: Glenda M. Snyder, 107 Hutchenson Hall, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061. gsnyder@vt.edu 540.521.9647

All Star District Chiefs and Contacts

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Lodging Information:

Waterfront Hotel with breathtaking views of the Marina
Complimentary Parking for overnight guests
Complimentary High Speed Wireless Internet
Restaurant on-site
24-Hour Fitness Center

Crowne Plaza Hampton Marina hotel is located on your left.

Directions to Crowne Plaza

From I-64 East & Newport News/Williamsburg Airport:
- Exit #267 (Hampton University/Settlers Landing Road).
- Turn right at the traffic light onto Settlers Landing Road.
- Continue over a small bridge to the next set of traffic lights.
Crowne Plaza Hampton Marina hotel is located on your left.

From I-64 West & Norfolk International Airport:
- Exit #267 (Hampton University/Woodland Road).
- Turn left at the traffic light onto Settlers Landing Road.
- Continue over a small bridge to the next set of traffic lights.
Crowne Plaza Hampton Marina hotel is located on your left.

Hotel Video- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdikeqkNDKI

Room Rates are $82.00 night/plus tax. Please make your reservation directly with hotel. Rooms are listed under 4-H All Stars.

Guests may call toll free at 1-866-375-6054, or simply use the booking link at http://goo.gl/rSTiZm. Just enter the arrival and departure dates, number of persons, and then click on check availability.

Lodging Information:

Waterfront Hotel with breathtaking views of the Marina
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Finally, one of the more controversial words in any person’s vocabulary: change. For some, the word change is threatening and brings feelings of discomfort and unease. To others, it may seem completely at odds with the meaning of tradition. However, I choose to (and hope you will too) view the word as refreshing, promising, and limitless! In 1902, boys and girls had separate 4-H clubs, the races were divided, and 4-H was just beginning to establish itself. Now, over 100 years later, 4-H has changed quite a lot and yet, it still remains true to the traditional and founding values upon which it was built: positive youth development. All Stars in Virginia began just shy of 100 years ago and I have to believe we have gone through some changes along the way. Groups that don’t embrace changes become stale and stagnant. They wither and blow away as they become irrelevant to the newer generations. 4-H All Stars are poised in a wonderful place to help shape the future of 4-H by finding ways to change some of our traditions without losing the integrity of our mission. We have the ability and indeed duty to clean out the stacks of useless papers and cobwebs so that we can air out and show off all that is wonderful about our organization. An old Hebrew proverb says that “a man who bends too far will break.” I can’t argue that this is true; if bent too far, anyone would break. Consider the image of a dancer though. A dancer spends hours training and stretching in order to help the body bend in the right places and to reach its fullest ability. That is the sort of change I think we should be embracing. All Stars has an incredibly important place in the history, present, and future of 4-H but we must learn to stretch ourselves – just as the youth stretch themselves, in order to reach our full potential.

With these three words in mind – passion, tradition, and change – I challenge each and every one of you to find a way to combine these three words into your work with Virginia 4-H All Stars this year. Look for the passion in our organization and deepen it. Find the traditions which matter most and reaffirm their history and importance. Let go of what is no longer relevant so that refreshing, promising, and limitless changes may be welcomed and new traditions born. My hope is that together, we will build a stronger and more youthful organization which will continue to carry out our motto of service through passion filled traditions and the sort of close-knit friendships for which 4-H All Stars are known.

Finally, last but certainly not least, I’ve got some business items to share! I would like to thank all those who have given of their time, talents, and treasures over this last year. 4-H All Stars is truly a service oriented group and I know we have many, many unsung heroes among us. Your enthusiasm and giving hearts have not gone unnoticed. Thank you! Welcome to the 2015 tapped All Stars! You all are the next generation of All Stars and the future of 4-H. 4-H was just being established to establish itself. Now, over 100 years later, 4-H has changed quite a lot and yet, it still remains true to the traditional and founding values upon which it was built: positive youth development. All Stars in Virginia began just shy of 100 years ago and I have to believe we have gone through some changes along the way. Groups that don’t embrace changes become stale and stagnant. They wither and blow away as they become irrelevant to the newer generations. 4-H All Stars are poised in a wonderful place to help shape the future of 4-H by finding ways to change some of our traditions without losing the integrity of our mission. We have the ability and indeed duty to clean out the stacks of useless papers and cobwebs so that we can air out and show off all that is wonderful about our organization. An old Hebrew proverb says that “a man who bends too far will break.” I can’t argue that this is true; if bent too far, anyone would break. Consider the image of a dancer though. A dancer spends hours training and stretching in order to help the body bend in the right places and to reach its fullest ability. That is the sort of change I think we should be embracing. All Stars has an incredibly important place in the history, present, and future of 4-H but we must learn to stretch ourselves – just as the youth stretch themselves, in order to reach our full potential.

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Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Rij
In Honor and Memory of Our Fellow All Stars:

Kenneth Edward Dawson, 88, died on September 10, 2015, born in Newark, Ohio, on May 3, 1927. Ken grew up in Pittsylvania County, Va. He graduated from Spring Garden High School in Chatham, Va., in 1945. After serving in the Army from 1946 to 1948, he enrolled in VPI, graduating in 1952. He taught at Wytheville High School and Jefferson Senior High School in Roanoke, and returned to Virginia Tech in 1956 as Assistant Professor. Ken received a Master of Education degree from the University of Virginia and a PhD from the University of Maryland. Having traveled to 60 countries and all of the United States, Dr. Dawson helped develop liaison relationships between Virginia Tech and many nations including China, Japan, Brazil, Haiti, Yugoslavia, Portugal and Egypt. Kenneth attended Rock Eagle Georgia Volunteer Leaders National Conference for many years. Helped developed the International 4-H Youth Exchange (IFYE) foreign exchange program in Virginia. Served as the Founding President of Southside Virginia Community College: 1969-1973, Tapped into All-Stars 1974, Director of the Virginia 4-H Program : 1973-1983, VT Professor of International Development and Director of Training: 1983-1992 (retired in 1992), Member of the Montgomery County 4-H Administrative Board: mid 1980's-2002 Kenneth Dawson shared his faith in Jesus Christ through his kindness and generosity by teaching Sunday school for over 50 years, and serving as an active deacon. At death, he was a member of Belmont Christian Church. Ken was very active in civic organizations. He was longtime chaplain of the local A.A.R.P. and served as President of several Rotary Clubs. To those left behind, Ken Dawson says, “Love one another deeply, serve the Lord with gladness, and thank Him for every blessing. Life is good!”

His positive influence in the lives of countless youth and adults in the Virginia 4-H program is evidenced by the productive and contributing citizens that they have become today.

“Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you.”

- Mother Teresa
Welcome to the Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Hampton, Virginia.

VT Seafood AREC
Welcome to the Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Hampton, Virginia. Core research and extension programs at the AREC focus on seafood safety, seafood quality of animals and products, business and marketing support for the commercial and aquaculture industries, engineering, thermal processing, intensive saltwater recirculating aquaculture, and education/outreach for industry and consumers. The Virginia Seafood AREC also has a strong international outreach for industry and consumers. The Virginia Seafood AREC currently functions as a regional Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) training center. (First 25 to Sign-up)

Fort Monroe: Freedom's Fortress
Fort Monroe National Monument spans the American story through the 21st century: American Indian presence, Captain John Smith's journeys, a safe haven for freedom seekers during the Civil War, and a bastion of defense for the Chesapeake Bay. A public planning process will determine future public services and programming at this new national park with a centuries-old tradition. The Casemate Museum is operated by the Commonwealth of Virginia with curatorial support provided by the United States Army.

Hours of Operation:
The Casemate Museum is open Tuesday - Sunday from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm; and daily Memorial Day through Labor Day from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. The Casemate Museum is also open Memorial Day, Labor Day, and November 11, but closed Easter, Thanksgiving, December 24, December 25, December 31, and January 1. Guided tours for pre-formed groups of 10 or more (school groups Grade 3 and above) are available.
Phone Number: 757-788-3391

Hampton History Museum
The Hampton History Museum contains an impressive collection. Start your tour in a Kecoughtan Indian longhouse, pass through the hold of a tobacco ship and visit the ruins of the city burned to the ground during the Civil War. The Hampton History Museum serves to increase the awareness and understanding of the history of Hampton by maintaining an educational and research center for the collection, exhibition, interpretation, preservation and promotion of the vast historic resources of the City.

********Free Tours********

Smoke Signals from our Districts

Northern District East
A recognition picnic for 2015 Northern District All Stars was held Sunday afternoon, August 9th at Graves Mt. Lodge in Syria. The meal was free for 2015 All Stars who were presented with a choice of a special designed t-shirt or All Star jewelry. The meal for others was $11. We had 30 All Stars and 24 guests for a total of 54 in attendance. This included seven 2015 All Stars. Seven counties were represented. We had one or more All Stars representing each decade from the '40's to the present.
Our silent auction was a success once again both in terms of funds raised and the interest in the activity. As a result of donations and the auction, the District Treasury netted almost $500. That money is used to support district activities.
We met at Pepper's Grill in Culpeper on November 10th to review our district's forms. We had agents from four units and volunteers from three. We were pleased with the overall quality of the forms and the number of counties represented. We will have met again on Thursday, December 10th to review the state forms. The District All Star Chapter covered the cost of lunch for those who participate.

William Thomas—District Chief

Northern District West
The district had already held three meetings throughout the year in conjunction with the Northern District 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association. During the meetings, the 2015 Mid-Winters hosted by the district was discussed, as well as officers for the upcoming year. It was decided that each member attending Interstate would receive $25.00 from the district; they would also pay lodging costs for the member in charge of hospitality during the conference. The following officers were elected for the 2015-2016 year: Geraldine Cubbage as Big Chief, Elwanda Luttrell as Lesser Chief, Susan Starnand as Scribe, and Carol Boyer as Treasurer. The district wishes to meet with Anna Rij and the Northern East All Stars at a later time.

Geraldine Cubbage—District Big Chief

Southeast District
The Southeast/Airfield District assisted in the Southeast District 4-H All Stars in hosting the 2015 VAA4-HVL Conference. At the conference Billie Jean Elmer, District Advisor, presented workshops on the new All Star Nomination form. The district assisted during district contest, and donated $150 to the State All Star Association for additional expenses during the 2014 Summer Conference. The district has plans to meet October 24, 2015, jointly with the Southeast District 4-H Adult Volunteer Leaders Association, and hold officer elections.

Jean Powers—5E District Big Chief

Southwest District
Southwest District 4-H All Stars thank everyone for their help in hosting the 2015 Interstate Conference held in Roanoke. Special appreciation goes to Michelle Cock who served as chair for the conference.
Southwest District Membership Committee met November 19 to review applications and nominations for membership into the All Stars.
The next meeting is scheduled for February 16 at the Southwest Virginia 4-H Educational Center in Abingdon. This will be an opportunity for members to decide on service projects for the upcoming future. For more information on the Southwest District 4-H All Stars, check out our facebook page or contact District Chief Deb Nester at debnester@yahoo.com

William Thomas—District Chief
“BY AIR, LAND OR SEA EXPERIENCE HAMPTON’S HISTORY”

2016 4-H All Star Midwinter Conference
Tentative Schedule

Friday—February 5, 2016
7:30 - 10:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting (VCE - Hampton City Conference Room)

Saturday—February 6, 2016
8:30 - 12:30 PM Conference Registration
9:00 – 10:00 AM Service Project
10:00 – 12:30 PM IFYE meeting and All Star Committee Meetings
12:45 - 1:45 PM Lunch (box lunch @ VA Air & Space Center or nearby restaurants)
1:00 - 4:00 PM Group Tours (VA Air & Space Center, Hampton History Museum, VT Seafood AREC)
3:00 PM Check in to the hotel
5:00 – 5:45 PM 4-H All Star Business Meeting
6:00 – 9:00 PM 4-H All Star Banquet, Youth Entertainment, Evening Program
9:00 – 11:00 PM Hospitality Time - Hospitality Room

Sunday—February 7, 2016
7:00 - 9:00 AM Breakfast (on your own @ nearby restaurant)
9:00 – 9:30 AM Vespers
9:30 - 10:00 AM District Meetings
10:00 – 11:00 AM General Meeting/District Meeting
11:00 PM Safe Travel!! — See You At 4-H All Star Tapping Ceremony

2015 Interstate Conference Information

4-H All Star Interstate Conference for 2015 was hosted by the Virginia 4-H All-Stars in Roanoke, Virginia. Michelle Cock, Interstate 2015 Chair, reported that there were 46 full-time participants. She thanked Mary Gee, Jeff Gee, Connie Bryant, Deb Nester; and Tamla Nichols for helping with different parts of the event.

Upcoming Events – HOLD the DATES!

Virginia 4-H All Stars Summer 2016 Conference
For the Summer 2016 Conference, being planned by Kayla Blincoe, Wendy Martin, and the Central/Holiday Lake District, it was suggested that the conference be held at Zion’s Crossroad in Louisa and Fluvanna counties. The dates mentioned for the conference included July 9, and several entertainment ideas, including a theater company, were discussed.

Midwinters Conference 2017
The Midwinters 2017 conference is being hosted by the Southeast/Airfield District All-Stars with the help of Past Big Chief. They hope to hold the event in the Virginia Beach area, with a possible tour of the Military Aviation Museum in the area.

Virginia 4-H All Stars Summer 2017 Conference
The Northern West/NOVA District is hosting the Summer 2017 conference with hopes to hold the event at the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center.

All Star Award Deadlines
Don’t forget to send in your nominations for the following awards by January 1:
...the C. Dean Allen Award for Excellence, recognizing a Unit Extension Faculty member with three (3) or more years of service to All Star and/or 4-H international opportunities for youth.
...the Bradshaw Service Award for a 4-H All Star of 15 years or less membership who has rendered outstanding service to the All Star organization and other community service exemplifying our motto of service.
...the Dottie Nelson Service Award for Excellence in 4-H International Programs, recognizing a 4-H All Star or Volunteer with three (3) years or more of service in providing 4-H International opportunities for youth and families.
...the Wayne Keffer Memorial College Scholarship (two of $800 each) for Virginia 4-H All Stars who are currently college freshman, sophomores, juniors, seniors or graduate students.
Forms may be obtained on the website as http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/4h-youth/all-stars/index.html or by contacting our Awards Chairman, Dottie Nelson, at 276-617-1065 or dottiefye@yahoo.com

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University
www.ext.vt.edu