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WORTH NOTING:

SkyLine offices close for Presidents Day on Monday, February 19.

FRS Youth Tour Application Deadline: February 16

STAFF:

Kim Shepherd
Chief Executive Officer
Brian Tester
Chief Operations Officer
Angie Poe
Customer Service Manager
Jamey Jenkins
Retail Sales Manager
Edward Hinson
Chief Marketing & Sales Officer
Hallie Grubb
Public Relations Administrator



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2023 Allegheny Scholarship Recipients, Nicholas Rea and McKenzie Hudson, with Chief Marketing and Sales Officer Edward Hinson (Left) and Allegheny SkyLine Board Director R.C. Mitchell (Right)

2024 Frank James – SkyLine Scholarship

In the spring of 2024, SkyLine will award a total of \$25,000 to children of SkyLine and SkyBest customers to aid with the cost of a college education. Five \$1,000 scholarships, renewable up to four years, will be awarded to students who will attend a four-year college or university. Five \$500 scholarships, renewable up to two years, will be presented to students who will attend a two-year community/technical college. The Board of Directors established the Frank James – SkyLine Scholarship in 1987. The scholarship is named in memory of Frank James, former SkyLine Board President, rural telephone advocate, longtime educator and superintendent of Ashe County Schools. Eligible applicants must be children of

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Co-op Camp Returns in 2024

The Cooperative Council of North Carolina announced the dates of its annual Cooperative Leadership Camp, a weeklong summer program for high school students sponsored by cooperative organizations throughout the state, including SkyLine.

Scheduled June 24 through 28, the overnight camping program will take place at the lakefront Camp Monroe in Laurel Hill, North Carolina.

Co-op Camp is an experiential learning process where the teens form a worker/owner tee shirt cooperative, elect a board, hire a general manager, and design, produce and distribute tee shirts. Throughout the week, they learn about leadership, cooperative governance, and the cooperative business principles. The teams put together cooperative principles skits, have a leadership awards

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2024 FRS Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.



The photo above shows attendees of the 2023 FRS Youth Tour, Chase Miller (Left) and Lane Miller (Right), sight-seeing in Washington D.C.

The FRS announced the 2024 dates for the annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The event is scheduled for June 3-7.

This year, SkyLine will continue to sponsor this annual, unmatched experience. SkyLine will sponsor two high school juniors to be among over 100 students to attend. Established in 1996, the FRS Tour brings rural students from across the United States to our nation's capital for a five-day visit to some of the most historical sites in the U.S. While here,

students also learn about the telecommunications industry, as well as the regulatory and legislative processes. Educational sessions on these topics are greatly enhanced by both site visits to the U.S. Capitol and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in addition to meetings with industry leaders and members of Congress. The students also

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FRS Scholarship Program Continues Online Application

Application Deadline is February 16

If you have a son or daughter graduating from high school in the spring of 2024, he or she may be eligible for the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Scholarship sponsored locally by SkyLine Membership Corporation. In 2024, the FRS will award one-year scholarships in each geographic region of the NTC membership (including the service area of SkyLine/SkyBest) to graduating high school seniors whose families are served by NTC member organizations. For each FRS general scholarship, FRS provides \$2,000 and the sponsoring NTC member company provides \$500. The FRS has awarded over \$1 million in scholarships since its inception, empowering rural students throughout the country to advance their communities with invaluable skill sets and experiences.

In addition to the FRS general scholarships, FRS has the following named scholarships*

- Everett Kneese Scholarship
- Herbert and Isabel Bitz Memorial Scholarship
- JSI Scholarship
- Sarah Tyree Good Neighbor Scholarship
- Cronin Communications Scholarship
- Diana Jo Dreyer Memorial Scholarship
- TMS Scholarships
- Roger Cox Memorial Scholarship

*Submitting one application is sufficient for eligibility of all available scholarships.

According to the FRS, more than two-thirds of rural Americans with postsecondary degrees never return to their rural communities, so this program gives particular emphasis to those students who plan to return to their

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current full-time residents who have a SkyLine membership or SkyBest telephone/broadband services account of at least one year; and be graduating high school seniors (including home-schooled students) in the co-op's five county service area (Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Watauga and Johnson). The scholarships will be awarded on the basis of scholastic achievement, financial need, demonstrated leadership and community involvement. Application packages will be available at area high school guidance departments and all SkyLine Customer Centers beginning February 1. The deadline for this local scholarship is March 8.

FRS YOUTH TOUR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

receive ample time to explore the many attractions. The group visits such sites as the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials; the Korean, Vietnam and new World War II Memorials; Mount Vernon, home of George Washington; the Smithsonian Museums; and much more.

To be eligible to apply, the student's parents must receive telephone or internet services from SkyLine or SkyBest, and the student must be a rising high school senior in the co-op's five-county service area. Other requirements include:

- submitted statement of future plans beyond high school;
- 300-word essay on a specified topic;
- 3.25 minimum grade-point-average (GPA);
- recommendation from a teacher or school official;
- involvement in school organizations;
- community volunteer activities.

Note: Children of SkyLine employees or directors are not eligible for this scholarship.

Applications for the Youth Tour will be available at area high school guidance departments, all SkyLine Customer Center locations, and on the SkyLine website (www.skybest.com) beginning February 1. For more information, contact Hallie Grubb at 336-876-6117.

FRS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

community following college. Eligibility requirements include the following:

- Applicants must be children of SkyLine members or SkyBest customers who subscribe to either company's facilities-based services.
- Applicants must be graduating high school seniors and reside full-time with their parents(s) in the companies' service area.
- Applicants must be a United States citizen.
- Applicants must complete the online application.
- Applicants must express an interest to return to a rural community following graduation.
- Applications must be sponsored by SkyLine, an NTCA-member company.

Note: Children of SkyLine employees or directors are not eligible for this scholarship.

The FRS, in cooperation with NTCA — The Rural Broadband Association, seeks to sustain and enhance the quality of life in America by advancing an understanding of rural issues. Through its various programs and initiatives, FRS strongly supports the continuing education of rural youth. If any SkyLine-sponsored students are named winners, they will be announced in May, in conjunction with area high school awards day programs.

Visit www.skybest.com/scholarships for full instructions on how to create an account and for all necessary materials required. If you have additional questions about the FRS Scholarship, please contact Hallie Grubb.

banquet night, and learn what it means to be a part of the greater good that cooperatives offer. The week also includes workshops from a wide range of cooperative industries including the agriculture sector, credit unions, retail and telephone/broadband and electric utilities. Every activity is hands-on and interactive. Camp also includes swimming, canoeing, sports, games and meeting new friends from all across the state.

Bus transportation to and from designated stopping points along the route are provided through the camp sponsorship. SkyLine/SkyBest will provide student transportation to the nearest bus stop location.

SkyLine will sponsor up to 10 area high school students to attend this year's program, and student participants are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 Jim Graham Cooperative Leadership Scholarship during their senior year of high school. Camp applications will be available through area high school guidance departments, all SkyLine Customer Center locations and SkyLine's website at www.skybest.com beginning February 1.

For more information, contact Hallie Grubb at 336-876-6117.



Our Recent FRS Scholarship Winner

Chloe Pennington is a 2023 FRS Scholarship Program winner, having received the \$1,000 Roger Cox Memorial Scholarship, and now attends East

Tennessee State University. Since 2006, 20 national scholarships have been awarded to children of customers served by SkyLine and its subsidiary companies.

Recipe of the Month

Simply Lasagna

Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground beef
- 2 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 (15 ounce) container part skim ricotta cheese
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese, divided
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 jar spaghetti sauce
- 1 cup water
- 12 lasagna noodles, uncooked

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350°. Brown meat in a large skillet on medium high heat. Meanwhile, mix 1 1/4 cups of the mozzarella cheese, the ricotta cheese, 1/4 cup of the parmesan cheese, the parsley and egg until well blended; set aside. Drain meat, return to skillet. Stir in spaghetti sauce. Pour water into empty sauce jar; cover and shake well. Add to skillet; stir until well blended. Spread 1 cup of the meat sauce onto bottom of 13 X 9 inch baking dish; top with layers of 3 lasagna noodles, 1/3 of the ricotta cheese mixture and 1 cup of the meat sauce. Repeat layers two more times. Top with remaining 3 noodles and the remaining sauce. Sprinkle with remaining 1 1/4 cups mozzarella cheese and remaining 1/4 cup parmesan cheese. Cover tightly with greased foil. Bake 45 minutes. Remove foil; continue baking 15 minutes or until center is heated through. Let stand 15 minutes before cutting for easier serving.

Recipe submitted by Amy Dollar

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