



Applications due March 31 2023 FRS Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

The FRS announced the 2023 dates for the annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The event is scheduled for May 31 through June 4.

This year, SkyLine will continue to sponsor two high school juniors to be among over 100 students in attendance for this unmatched experience. 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 there, students 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 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.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Pictured left to right is Zara Worley, Hallie Grubb, Haleigh Hogg and Robin Miller

SkyLine/SkyBest Recognized with Ashe "Best of the Best" Awards

The Ashe Post and Times has announced its 2022 "Best of the Best" winners, and SkyLine/SkyBest was among the numerous categories of local businesses that received recognition.

The annual event was held in-person this year, after two years off due to the Covid-19 pandemic. SkyLine/SkyBest received top honors in four categories: Internet, Security, Telephone, and Cable TV Company.

Co-op Camp Returns in 2023 Applications Close April 14



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

Scheduled June 26 through 30, 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 teens form a worker/owner T-shirt cooperative. Their tasks include electing a board, hiring a general manager, and designing, producing and distributing T-shirts. Throughout the week, campers learn about leadership, cooperative governance, and the cooperative business principles. Teams put together cooperative principles skits, have a leadership awards banquet night, and learn what it means to be a part of the greater good that cooperatives offer.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Pictured left to right is Jason Smith, director of communication technology at Blue Ridge Energy; Bob Taylor, field service technician with SkyBest Communications; and Blake Bouillion, Caldwell resident and the first homeowner connected to high-speed internet as part of the GREAT grant project.

GREAT Grant Funding Helps Bring Fiber to Caldwell

While SkyBest first began offering telecommunications services in Caldwell County in 2017, bringing access to widespread fiber internet remained a challenge. In early 2021, SkyBest and Blue Ridge Energy were jointly awarded the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology, or GREAT, Grant. With this funding, construction of approximately 68 miles of fiber to deliver high-speed internet to portions of Caldwell County became possible. The grant area includes approximately 400 homes and businesses located off of Highway 268, from Indian Grave to the Wilkes County line.

SkyBest and Blue Ridge Energy completed this project over the course of three phases. We wrapped up the last phase in December 2022, officially making service available.

Currently, we've installed more than 200 services within the grant area. SkyLine/SkyBest will always prioritize improving the quality of life for our customers, and we are grateful this funding allowed us to do exactly that.

Call 1-800-759-2226 or visit www.skybest.com to see if service is available at your location.

NEED TO CONTACT US?

CUSTOMER SERVICE

LOCAL
118

TOLL-FREE
1-800-759-2226

REPAIR SERVICE, 24/7

LOCAL
611

TOLL-FREE
1-877-475-9546

Additional Local
Repair Service Numbers:

ALLEGHANY
336-372-4444
(10-DIGIT DIALING)

ASHE
336-982-3111
(10-DIGIT DIALING)

AVERY
898-9250

WATAUGA
297-4811

JOHNSON
739-4500

LENOIR
929-2872

INTERNET TECH SUPPORT, 24/7

TOLL-FREE
1-866-759-7591

WORTH NOTING:

Frank James-SkyLine
Scholarship Application
Deadlines:

Public School: March 10

Private/Home School:
March 17

FRS Youth Tour Application
Deadline: March 31

Co-op Leadership Camp
Deadline: April 14

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



www.facebook.com/SkyLineSkyBest

Frank James–SkyLine Scholarship

In the spring of 2023, 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 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, and demonstrated leadership and community involvement. Application packages are now available at area high school guidance departments and all SkyLine Customer Centers. The deadline for this local scholarship is Friday, March 10.

What is Phishing? How can I be Cautious?

Phishing Definition: The act of sending emails disguised as a reputable company or individual in order to convince the receiver to give up personal information such as credit card details, passwords, and social security numbers.

Phishing scams have been a cause for concern since the creation of email; however, the COVID-19 pandemic heightened both the frequency and severity of these scams to another level – potentially resulting in devastating consequences for the victim. Although we recommend always playing on the safe side and double checking with the supposed “sender” to determine if the email is legitimate, we’ve compiled a list of some of the most common email scams to help you be on the lookout.

Some things to look out for:

- Misspelling of company or individual names
- URLs – Hover over each link to check the destination. If the link is not recognizable, do not click it.
- Have you ever received an email like this from the sender before? If not, it is likely a scam.
- If you do not remember inquiring or entering a contest, do not trust it. Always assume that if it seems too good to be true, it likely is.

What to do when you receive a phishing email:

- Do NOT open it or click any links.
- Check with the company or individual to ensure that it is fake. If you already know it is fake, notify the company or individual so they can warn others.
- Notify friends and family if it seems likely they will receive similar emails.

If you ever receive a suspicious email from SkyLine/SkyBest, please call to speak with a Customer Service Representative to double check at 1-800-759-2226. We are more than happy to help you in any way, and your privacy and safety is our number one priority.

2023 FRS YOUTH TOUR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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 (Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Watauga, and Johnson). 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 are now available at area high school guidance departments, all SkyLine Customer Center locations, and on the SkyLine website (www.skybest.com). The application deadline for this program is Friday, March 31. For more information, contact Public Relations Administrator, Hallie Grubb, at 1-800-759-2226.

CO-OP CAMP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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 are available through all area high school guidance departments, all SkyLine Customer Center locations, and SkyLine's website at www.skybest.com. The application deadline for this program is Friday, April 14. For more information, contact Public Relations Administrator, Hallie Grubb, at 1-800-759-2226.

Recipe of the Month

Five Minute Chocolate Mug Cake

Ingredients:

- 4 teaspoons flour
- 4 teaspoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons cocoa
- 1 egg
- 3 teaspoons oil
- 3 teaspoons chocolate chips
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Instructions:

Mix ingredients in a small bowl. Spray a large mug with cooking spray. Put the batter in mug. Microwave on high for 3 minutes. Allow time to cool a little. Turn out onto plate. You can top with ice cream or whipped topping and chocolate syrup. Enjoy!!

Recipe submitted by Sharon Davis

IS YOUR INTERNET READY?



Are you planning to stream all the basketball madness in March? Make sure your home's internet connection has the speed you need for a winning viewing experience.

SkyBest offers super-fast internet plans with download speeds up to 2 Gig*.

**FASTER INTERNET IS
A GAME CHANGER.**

**CALL OR CLICK TO
SIGN UP NOW!**

1-800-759-2226 | WWW.SKYBEST.COM


SkyLine
SkyBest

*Certain restrictions apply. Available in fiber-served communities only. Call for internet availability, speeds and rates.