

2024 Frank James – SkyLine Scholarship



Public Relations Administrator, Hallie Grubb, announces 2023 Scholarship Recipient, Austin Hart as a winner of the 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 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 are now available at area high school guidance departments and all SkyLine Customer Centers. The deadline for this local scholarship is March 8.



Haleigh Seamon (left) and Zara Worley (right) accept awards on behalf of SkyLine/SkyBest.

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

The Ashe Post and Times announced its 2023 "Best of the Best" winners, and SkyLine/SkyBest was among the numerous categories of local businesses that received recognition.

Thank you to everyone who voted us "Best of the Best" in four categories; Internet, Security, Telephone and Cable TV Company. We are so proud to serve our communities!

Applications due March 22 2024 FRS Youth Tour to 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 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

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Co-op Camp Returns in 2024 Applications Close April 5

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 banquet night,

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WORTH NOTING:

Frank James – SkyLine Scholarship Application Deadline: March 8

FRS Youth Tour Application Deadline: March 22

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SkyLine/SkyBest Employee Perspective Network Facilities Engineer, Justin Lambert

"When the things we do go unnoticed, that's when we are doing our job right," Network Facilities Engineer, Justin Lambert attests.

In his role as a Network Facilities Engineer, Lambert tests equipment before it is implemented into SkyLine's network, maintains approximately half of SkyLine's Fiber-to-the-Premise network, monitors customer internet, performs upgrades to existing equipment and engineers how equipment will be installed to reach new customers. He emphasizes that much of the maintenance and upgrading his team carries out is behind the scenes work.

Lambert's ambition to work at SkyLine began at an early age. "I always wanted the opportunity to provide a service back to the community," he explains. Lambert feels lucky to have found a career that allows him to combine his problem solving skills with ensuring those in his community feel a sense of connectedness with broadband service. Each day brings a new puzzle to solve, and he enjoys that no two situations are the same.

Furthermore, Lambert is grateful to work in an environment that he describes as a family. He explains that although each employee must perform well individually, it is only by developing a sense of reliance on one another that SkyLine, as a whole, can offer customers the best quality of service. "Even though I'm on the networking team, I still work closely with the customer support team," Lambert says. "I rely on them if I need to contact the customer to solve any issues."

A favorite aspect of his job is the opportunity for continuous growth. In his position, specifically, he finds there is always more to learn.

"It's amazing how much technology has grown in just the last five to ten years," Lambert observes. "The advancements are not going to slow down, so it is important that we continue working to future-proof our equipment."

Lambert addresses that in the last year alone, the testing and turn up of SkyLine's 2 Gig service involved working with an all new technology that the company had not yet implemented. "It is going to allow us to meet the broadband needs of customers for years to come," he asserts.

As the world of technology never stops changing, Lambert is eager and proud to help SkyLine adapt in ways that keep our rural area connected and on the cutting edge of technology. "At SkyLine, it's not just about the work," Lambert says. "It's about each other."

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 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 22. For more information, contact Public Relations Administrator, Hallie Grubb, at 1-800-759-2226.

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 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 5. For more information, contact Public Relations Administrator, Hallie Grubb, at 1-800-759-2226.

Recipe of the Month

Pesto Pizza

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup pesto
- 1 12-inch Italian bread shell (Boboli)
- 3 medium ripe tomatoes, thinly sliced
- 1 2 1/4 ounce can sliced pitted ripe olives, well drained
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese

Instructions:

Place bread shell on large pizza pan. Spread pesto evenly over bread shell. Top with tomato slices. Sprinkle with olives and pepper. Top with cheese. Bake at 425° for 10-15 minutes until cheese is bubbly. Cut into wedges.

Recipe submitted by Marsha Walters

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