



SkyLine Board President, Bill Bureson and SkyLine Board Vice President, D.C. Smith attended the Avery County High School awards day program in May of 2024. They presented Lillie Ward, Grant Reece and Aaron Williams (not pictured) with their scholarship certificates.

2025 Frank James – SkyLine Scholarship

Applications due March 7

There's still time to apply for the Frank James – SkyLine Scholarship! In the spring of 2025, 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 \$1000 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 awarded 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.

Applications are now available online at: www.sky-best.com. Application packets can also be found at all area high school guidance departments and all SkyLine Customer Centers. The deadline for this local scholarship is Friday, March 7. If you have any questions regarding the Frank James – SkyLine Scholarship, please contact Public Relations Administrator, Hallie Grubb.

Caller ID Spoofing

Caller ID Spoofing occurs when a caller intentionally disguises their identity by altering their name and/or phone number that is displayed on your telephone. Spoofing is used most frequently for scams and conning personal information and/or money from its victims.

One tactic commonly used by scammers, called Robocallers, is neighbor spoofing. Robocallers will alter their number to appear as a local number that could be similar to your own, to increase the likelihood that you

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2025 FRS Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Applications due March 21

The FRS announced the 2025 dates for the annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The event is scheduled for June 2-6.

SkyLine will continue to sponsor this annual unmatched experience for 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.

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Haleigh Seamon (left) and Zara Blevins (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 2024 "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 Internet, Security and Telephone services! We are so proud to serve our communities!

Four Steps to Help You Protect Your Sensitive Information

In a world where so many things can be accessed online, we must be very careful to protect our personal information just as we would protect our bank accounts. But where do we start? Check out these four tips on how to protect yourself online:

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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

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



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

CALLER ID SPOOFING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

will answer the call. Unfortunately, these scam artists have the ability to frequently change the number transmitted to your caller ID to any number of their choosing at any time. Any telephone number is at risk.

To minimize your risk of falling victim to spoofing scams, pay attention to the incoming calls you accept. Do not answer any calls from unfamiliar numbers. Do not provide any information or follow any instructions if prompted by an unknown caller. SkyLine/SkyBest provides multiple features that may help reduce the threat of Robocallers connecting to your home telephone line including Anonymous Call Rejection, Selective Call Rejection and Smart Call Manager.

To learn more about these calling features call 1-800-759-2226

FOUR STEPS TO PROTECT YOU CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- 1. Create Strong Passwords.** Using at least 12 characters, you should combine letters, numbers and symbols to create strong passwords. Avoid using any passwords that can be easily guessed like your birthday or your pet's name. You should also not be using the same password for all your devices.
- 2. Be Cautious When Opening Emails.** Be very careful responding or clicking on any email that requires urgent action, especially when these relate to sensitive topics. Most scam emails will use scare tactics to try to compel you to give up your personal information. Be cautious of clicking on any links or attachments, and of any spelling errors in the email. If you have any doubts at all about an email being real, you should contact the company directly by phone.
- 3. Keep Your Devices Clean and Up-to-date.** Make sure to keep all frequently used apps up to date. Delete apps that are no longer in use, as they can collect personal information like your location while sitting idle on your phone.
- 4. Take Charge of Your Online Presence.** Be sure to monitor who has access to your information and what you decide to share.

Try not to share your login information with anyone if you can help it. Remember that it is okay to tell people what they can and cannot post of you. Always keep in mind that things posted online never go away. You can visit <https://staysafeonline.org> to learn more about managing your privacy setting from the National Security Alliance.

CAMP DATES & LOCATIONS



Cooperative Leadership Camp Returns in 2025 With a New Twist!

The Cooperative Council of the Carolinas' mission is to educate, connect and promote cooperatives. For decades, The Council continues to fulfill their mission by hosting Cooperative Leadership Camp (CLC) for high school students. In 2025, the Council is shifting from a single overnight camp to multiple day camps in the Carolinas. Although this will not be a 4-day, overnight camp, the goal will continue to be the same; to provide students with the skills they need to become tomorrow's cooperative leaders.

During camp students explore the cooperative principles, create their own cooperative, manage areas of business such as marketing, budgeting and more.

Campers will also be introduced to local cooperatives with hands-on workshops. Participating cooperatives may include the following sectors: electric/utility, telephone/communications, credit unions, agriculture, food/grocery, worker-owner retail and service, and more! For more information visit www.carolinascouncil.coop.

Recipe of the Month

Zesty Lemon Cake

Ingredients:

- 1 package Duncan Hines Lemon Supreme cake mix
- 1 small package instant lemon pudding
- 1 cup lemon yogurt
- zest of one large lemon
- 1/2 cup canola oil
- 3/4 cup orange juice
- 4 large eggs

Instructions:

Spray Bundt pan with Bakers Joy and set aside. Preheat oven to 350°.

In large bowl, add all ingredients and stir together. Then beat for 2 minutes on medium high speed. Pour into Bundt pan, and shake on counter to help remove air.

Bake 43-47 minutes or until cake is golden brown, and springs back when lightly pressed.

Remove pan from oven, and cool on wire rack for 20 minutes. Invert onto plate and allow to cool completely. Serve.

Recipe submitted by Susan Bradshaw

Protect what matters most
with unbeatable security
you know and trust!



Contact us for a FREE consultation today!
skybest.com 1-800-759-2226