

## FRS Scholarship Program Continues in 2025

If you have a son or daughter graduating in the spring of 2025, he or she may be eligible for the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Scholarship sponsored locally by Sky-Line Membership Corporation.

In 2025, the FRS will award one-year scholarships in each geographic region of the NTCA membership (including the service area of SkyLine/SkyBest) to graduating member organizations. For each FRS general scholarship, FRS provides \$2,000 and the sponsoring NTCA 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:\*

- V+C Trust Scholarship
- Everett Kneece Scholarship
- Herbert and Isabel Bitz Memorial Scholarship
- JSI Scholarship
- Sarah Tyree Good Neighbor Scholarship
- Diana Jo Dreyer Memorial Scholarship
- TMS Scholarship
- Roger Cox Scholarship

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Watauga County Spelling Bee Champion Recognized

Sponsored by SkyLine and Carolina West Wireless



The Watauga County Spelling Bee for students representing the nine elementary schools in the county took place on December 6. The event, held at the school system's administrative offices, continues to be sponsored by SkyLine and Carolina West Wireless. Lauren M. of Cove Creek Elementary school was named county winner. She is pictured with Public Relations Administrator Hallie Grubb. Congratulations, Lauren!

## Be Aware of Phone Calls and Emails

Customers have reported recent phone and email scams that 'appear' to be coming from SkyLine/SkyBest. ALWAYS be hesitant about sharing information over the phone, clicking on links or opening attachments in emails – not only those that appear to be from Sky-Line/SkyBest, but other companies as well. Call us at 1-800-759-2226 to verify if the calls or emails are legitimate.



Hallie Grubb, Eric Holt, Sam Wilson, Eric Church and Brantley Davis make 2024 Project Star deliveries.

## Making Christmas Brighter for Those in Need

During the 2024 holiday season, SkyLine employees gathered their time and resources to help support area community members in need. As sponsors of the Appalachian Senior Programs' Project Star for the past 22 consecutive years, SkyLine employees were able to sponsor 25 senior citizens that needed some additional support this year. SkyLine employees also sponsored 18 children through Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission (BROC), a program that collectively provides Christmas gifts for children in need.

## SkyLine/SkyBest is Here for You Even When You're Not at Home

It's easy to assume that your SkyLine/SkyBest service isn't important when you're not at home. You're not using your home internet and you're not taking calls on your landline. However, with SkyLine/SkyBest's various services and features, you can still stay on top of everything while you're on the go.

### How SkyLine/SkyBest services support your busy lifestyle

#### Security System

The most obvious way SkyLine/SkyBest supports your life on the go is with a home security system. Our interactive monitoring and video solutions provide you with 24/7/365 monitoring, remote access door locking, remote and live video feed and so much more! You never have to stress about safety of your home or what's going on while you're away. You can keep an eye on your home without having to be there.

#### Call Features like Call Forwarding

If you are waiting for a call on your landline phone but have to be out of the house, Call Forwarding from SkyLine/SkyBest is exactly what you need. This calling feature allows you to transfer incoming calls automatically to a different telephone number (like your cell phone number). Additionally, SkyLine/SkyBest offers more personalized call forwarding features such as, Call Forwarding Hot Line, Call

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## 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



www.facebook.com/SkyLineSkyBest

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 community following college. Eligibility requirements include the following:

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

Note: Children of SkyLine employees 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.FRS.org/student](http://www.FRS.org/student) 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 at 1-336-876-6117.

Forwarding Remote Access, Selective Call Forwarding and Call Forwarding/Busy No Answer. These features provide you a personalized Voice plan that keeps up with your daily life.

### Email

Waiting on an email? That doesn't mean you have to sit around at home. SkyBest email customers have the convenience of accessing their email accounts while away. Customers can either click on the "Check Email" link in the top right corner of the homepage ([skybest.com](http://skybest.com)), or they can visit [webmail.skybest.com](http://webmail.skybest.com) in their regular internet browser on their mobile device.

### DIRECTV

Take this great streaming TV option with you nearly anywhere! SkyBest teamed up with DIRECTV to deliver seamless video content whether you are enjoying your mountain home or are on the road. Enjoy up to three simultaneous streams, your preferred local channels and the best in sports entertainment wherever you go.

### Hosted Voice Phone Systems

For our business customers, enjoy enhanced office mobility with our Hosted Voice over IP solutions to fit teams of all sizes. As long as you have a reliable internet connection like SkyBest, you can set up your office anywhere.

A solid telecommunications provider is crucial for maintaining your productivity, even when you're away from home. To learn more about the services we offer, visit us online at [skybest.com](http://skybest.com) or give us a call at 1-800-759-2226.

## SkyLine Telephone Membership Corporation Statement of Nondiscrimination

SkyLine Telephone Membership Corporation is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 1-800-795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). "USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

### Recipe of the Month

## No-Fool Pie

#### Ingredients:

- 3/4 stick butter or margarine
- 1 cup self-rising flour
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 to 1 1/2 cup drained fruit

#### Instructions:

Melt butter or margarine in an 8 or 9 inch baking dish while oven is preheating to 350°. Set aside. Combine flour, sugar, and about 1/2 milk. Stir until dry ingredients are moistened. Add remaining milk and stir until smooth. Pour batter over melted margarine. Do not mix. Place drained fruit over top of this mixture. Do not stir to combine. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes or until lightly browned and center springs back when touched with finger.

Recipe submitted by Jessica Baker

## 2025 Calendars are now available at all Customer Centers!



## Medical Alert Service

# \$24.95/mo.

No Contract. No Upfront Costs.

SKYBEST.COM 1-800-759-2226

\*Some restrictions apply. Only in NC.

# Happy New Year!

From the Board of Directors and Staff of  
SkyLine Membership Corporation and SkyBest Communications