



Earlier Application Deadline for Frank James-SkyLine Scholarship

Ten scholarships with a total value of \$25,000 are scheduled to be awarded this spring to children of SkyLine and SkyBest telephone service customers to assist them 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 scholarships will be awarded on the basis of scholastic achievement, financial need, demonstrated leadership and community involvement. Application deadlines may vary by school system, so please call your high school guidance office or visit our website for more information regarding local application deadlines (www.skybest.com).



Photo: Ashe Post Times

SkyLine's Inside Sales Coordinator Robin Miller, Business Sales Executive Charity Shatley and Public Relations Administrator Karen Powell accepted the awards for SkyLine/SkyBest at the *Ashe Mountain Times*' "Best of the Best" Awards event in January.

SkyLine/SkyBest Recognized in Three Categories at Ashe Post & Times' "Best of the Best" Awards

The *Ashe Post & Times* hosted its fifth annual "Best of the Best" awards luncheon on Jan. 29. After weeks of voting, tallying and more, Ashe County's best businesses were honored and awarded official certificates in Hensley Hall at the West Jefferson United Methodist Church, and SkyLine was among the honorees.

"It's to reward the merchants for the contributions they make to the area," said Charlie Price, *Mountain Times Publications*' advertising and sales director. "Not just products and services, but to the emotion, the energy and the drive that they put into making growth in the area possible. It makes everybody's lives better."

Retiring Ashe County High School Athletics Director Marc Payne was the guest speaker and was warmly received by the audience for his thoughtful and reflective remarks. This marked Payne's second speaking appearance having been featured at the inaugural "Best of the Best" event.

In the categories of "Best Internet Service," "Best Telephone Service" and "Best Cable Service," SkyLine/SkyBest received top honors.

FRS Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Again this year, SkyLine will sponsor two high school juniors to be among over 100 students to attend the Foundation for Rural Service's 2018 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.



FOUNDATION FOR RURAL SERVICE

Now in its 24th year, the FRS Tour brings rural students from across the United States to Washington, D.C. for a four-day visit from June 2 through 6 to some of the most historical sites in the nation. 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 are given ample time to explore the Nation's Capital and its many attractions. While here, the group visits such sites as the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials; the Korean, Vietnam and 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 service from SkyLine or SkyBest, and the student must meet the following program requirements:

- be a student at a public high school in the co-op's five-county service area (16 or 17 years old at the time of the program);

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Co-op Leadership Camp Applications Available March 2

Beginning this month, SkyLine is accepting applications for the 2018 Cooperative Leadership Camp, a five-day leadership development program scheduled from June 18 through 22, at White Lake, N.C. Sponsored by the Cooperative Council of North Carolina and member cooperatives from across the state, the conference features workshops, speakers, recreation and small group sessions that center around the cooperative way of doing business. This year's conference promises to be a fun week with lots of leadership development and fellowship opportunities for young people. Participants also will be eligible to apply for a \$1,000 college scholarship (during their senior year of high school).

Rising high school sophomores, juniors or seniors whose parents subscribe to telephone service through SkyLine or SkyBest can apply for the conference sponsorships. (Applicants must be at least 15 years old at the time of the Conference.) Up to 10 students will be selected to attend.

Applications will be available at area high school guidance departments and at all SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Centers beginning Friday, March 2. The application deadline is Friday, March 30.

For more information on any of these programs, please contact Karen Powell, Public Relations Administrator, at SkyLine (1-800-759-2226).

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WORTH NOTING:

March 30

Directory Collection Drive Ends

March 30

Application Deadline for FRS Youth Tour & Co-op Camp

STAFF:

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Chief Executive Officer

Kim Shepherd

Chief Management Officer

Brian Tester

Executive Director of Customer Operations

Angie Poe

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Karen P. Powell

Public Relations Administrator & Editor





Coming in April – Ashe County Heart Auction

SkyLine will again provide the phone bank for the Ashe County Heart Auction this year, and the event will take place on Wednesday, April 11, at Family Central. This is one of the local chapter's largest fund-raising events for the year, as businesses from across the county contribute numerous auction items for bid. WKSX Radio (580 AM and 93.5 FM) will air the auction beginning around 9 a.m., with continuing updates through the afternoon, and SkyBest TV's SkyZone HD, Channels 1 and 1001 will plan to complement WKSX's radio coverage with live video updates throughout the day again this year. Ashe County kitchens also share their best baking creations to raise additional funds for this event, and volunteers from across the county help with this effort, including those pictured here from 2017 (left to right): Gail Blackburn, Ella Baldwin and Pearl Brown. The 2017 Heart Auction drew a big crowd and hundreds of calls, raising more than \$17,000 to support the American Heart Association.

In the Community Ashe Memorial Hospital

Congratulations to Ashe Memorial Hospital for being named a 2018 Top 100 Critical Access Hospital. As one of 20 hospitals with this designation in North Carolina and 1,343 hospitals nationwide, this achievement is especially noteworthy. Ashe Memorial scored in the top 100 of Critical Access Hospitals on iVantage Health Analytics' Hospital Strength INDEX®. The INDEX is the industry's most comprehensive and objective assessment of rural provider performance and its results are the basis for many of rural healthcare's most prominent awards, advocacy efforts and legislative initiatives. The Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals play a key role in providing a safety net to communities across America. Beyond the outstanding care they provide our citizens, our rural hospitals also contribute to the economic health of our communities by being a key factor in business recruitment for economic growth and development.

FRS YOUTH TOUR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

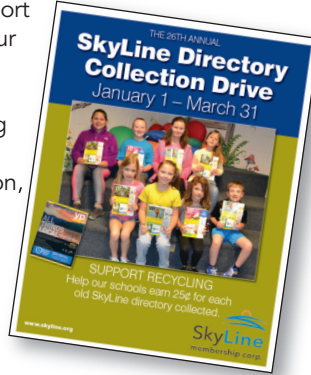
- write a letter of application, including future plans beyond high school;
- submit a 500-word essay on one of three selected topics;
- have a minimum 3.25 grade-point-average (GPA);
- obtain a letter of recommendation from a teacher or school official;
- exhibit demonstrated leadership in campus organizations;
- exhibit demonstrated community involvement through volunteer activities.

Applications for the Youth Tour will be available at area high school guidance departments and at all SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Centers beginning Friday, March 2. The application deadline is Friday, March 30.

Support Area Public Schools Directory Drive Ends March 31

It's not too late to support this year's Directory Collection Drive which benefits area public schools. Now in its 26th year, the program provides 25 cents to the participating schools for each outdated SkyLine directory collected. Throughout the calendar year, SkyLine also receives directories at its Customer Service Center locations in Banner Elk, Boone, Sparta and West Jefferson, with credit given to the schools.

Please support recycling and our public schools through this special recycling initiative. For more information, please contact your local Sky-Line Customer Service Center at 118.



Schools Participating in 2018 Directory Collection Drive

Alleghany High • Glade Creek Elementary • Piney Creek Elementary • Sparta Elementary
Ashe County High • Ashe County Middle • Blue Ridge Elementary • Westwood Elementary
Mountain View Elementary • Avery County High • Banner Elk Elementary
Freedom Trail Elementary • Bethel Elementary • Cove Creek Elementary • Mabel Elementary
Valle Crucis Elementary • Shady Valley Elementary

Recipe of the Month

Black Cherry Cake

Cake:

- 1 package white cake mix
- 1 1/4 cups water
- 1/3 cup canola oil
- 4 egg whites
- 6 ounces fat-free black cherry yogurt

Frosting:

- 6 ounces fat-free black cherry yogurt
- 1 carton (8 ounces) whipped topping

Instructions:

In large mixing bowl, combine cake mix, water, oil, and egg whites just until moistened. Beat on low speed for 2 minutes. Fold in 6 ounces of yogurt. Pour into 13 X 9 baking pan coated with non stick spray. Bake at 350° for 30- 35 minutes. Cool.

Mix rest of yogurt with whipped topping and spread over cake. Store in refrigerator.

Recipe Submitted by Dorothy Edwards of Alleghany County



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*Restrictions apply. Available in N.C. only.