

FRS Scholarship Program Continues in 2026

If you have a son or daughter graduating in the spring of 2026, he or she may be eligible for the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Scholarship sponsored locally by SkyLine Membership Corporation.

In 2026, 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 \$2 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:*

- Common Ground Scholarship
- Everett Kneece Scholarship
- Herbert and Isabel Bitz Memorial Scholarship
- JSI Scholarship
- Sarah Tyree Good Neighbor Scholarship
- Nontraditional Student Scholarship
- Tim Owens-Ron Launder Scholarship
- Diana Jo Dreyer Memorial Scholarship
- TMS Scholarship
- Roger Cox Scholarship

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

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SkyLine employees delivered gifts on December 3 for community members in need.

As sponsors of the Appalachian Senior Programs' Project Star for the past 23 consecutive years, SkyLine employees were able to sponsor 25 senior citizens that needed some additional support this year. SkyLine employees also sponsored 13 children through Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission (BROC), a program that collectively provides Christmas gifts for children in need.

A Season of Giving

During the 2025 holiday season, SkyLine employees gathered their time and resources to help support area community members in need.



Ashe Food Pantry

"Rise and Shine" Food Drive Deliveries

The twelfth annual "Rise and Shine" breakfast good drive received generous support from employees, directors and the community with final collections of 1,924 non-perishable breakfast food items earmarked for food pantries across our service area. SkyLine/SkyBest also presented corporate donations totaling \$1,000 to the five area food pantries sponsored in this drive; Solid Rock Food Closet (Alleghany), Ashe Food Pantry, Reaching Avery Ministry, the Hunger and Health Coalition (Watauga) and Shady Valley Baptist Church Food Pantry (Johnson).

Since the program began, our customers, employees and directors have donated over 17,900 breakfast items to area food pantries.

This initiative would not be possible, nor would it have the impact it has without your active involvement, so all of us at SkyLine express our sincerest thanks! Please remember to support this and other area food drive initiatives throughout the calendar year. Your support makes all the difference to those facing hunger.



Hunger and Health Coalition



Reaching Avery Ministry



Shady Valley Baptist Church Food Pantry



Solid Rock Food Closet

SkyLine
SkyBest

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

423-739-4500
(10-DIGIT DIALING)

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

Happy New Year!

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

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 company's facility-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 a United States citizen.
- Applicants must complete the online application.
- Applicants must express an interest to return to a rural community following graduation.
- Applications must be sponsored by SkyLine, an NTCA-member company.

Note: Children of SkyLine employees or directors 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.skybest.com/scholarships 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.

Why You May Need to Run a Speed Test

Internet Performance & Speed Test

An Internet speed test is the most useful resource in determining the actual broadband speed you are receiving. But, why is this information so important? For what reasons would you need to run a speed test?

Troubleshooting

The main reason one would need to know how to run a speed test is for troubleshooting purposes. If you are experiencing slow internet, you need to know whether this slow connection is caused by your actual, fiber-optic broadband, or your Wi-Fi/router connection. The best way to learn that is through a wired speed test. Based on those results, you should be able to tell whether you need to speak with our repair team, or simply address a router issue.

Submitting Data or Interest Forms

If we are currently unable to serve you and you are submitting an interest form to us, you will see a place to tell us your current upload and download speeds. Although this is not a "required field", it helps us determine where the most need is and gauge interest.

As the need for broadband is growing, our team is dedicated to staying on top of new technology, information and opportunities, as well as educating our customers on "all-things Internet". Give us a call at 1-800-759-2226 for more information.

Refer-A-Friend and Get \$100 Credit for Each Referral

For every friend who gets installed with SkyBest High-Speed Internet as a result of your referral, you will get a \$100 credit on your bill.

See www.skybest.com/about-us/customer-programs/refer-a-friend for more information!

*The Refer-A-Friend promotion is not combinable with any other offer or promotion. For a limited time only.

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. Call us at 1-800-759-2226 to verify if the calls or emails are legitimate.

Recipe of the Month

Nancy's Pond Mtn. Pimento Cheese

Ingredients:

- 4 pounds sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 big jar chopped pimentos
- 2 cups kraft mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese

Instructions:

Mix all the ingredients in a large bowl till you meet desired texture. Refrigerate.

Recipe submitted by Nancy Barker

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."



Medical Alert Service



No Contract. No Upfront Costs.

\$24.95/mo.

SKYBEST.COM 1-800-759-2226

SkyLine  SkyBest

*Some restrictions apply. Available only in NC.

2026 Calendars are now available at all Customer Centers!