



SkyLine Board President, Bill Bureson and Chief Marketing and Sales Officer, Edward Hinson attended the Avery County High School awards day program in May of 2025. They presented Addison Hoilman with her scholarship certificate.

2026 Frank James – SkyLine Scholarship Applications due March 6

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Drew Piscopo and Hallie Grubb accept awards on behalf of SkyLine/SkyBest.

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

The Ashe Post and Times announced its 2025 "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!

2026 FRS Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Applications due March 20



The FRS announced the 2026 dates for the annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The event is scheduled for June 1-5.

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

Watch Out for Spam & Phishing

In recent years we have witnessed an onslaught of spam and phishing attempts. It's easy to skim over emails, texts and messages, and not pay attention to who you may be giving information to. It is crucial to be on high-alert and not let yourself become idle.

Tips for Preventing Spam & Phishing Attacks: Besides simply being aware and paying attention, the Federal Trade Commission recommends these tips to avoid spam and phishing attempts:

Be Cautious with your Email & Use an Email Filter: Be cautious about opening any attachments or downloading files from emails you receive, even if it looks like it is from a friend or co-worker – unless you are expecting it or know

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
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



membership 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.skybest.com. The deadline for this local scholarship is Friday, March 6. If you have any questions regarding the Frank James – SkyLine Scholarship, please contact Public Relations Administrator, Hallie Grubb.

SPAM & PHISHING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

what it is. If you send an email with an attached file, include a message explaining what it is. Check your email account to see if it provides a tool to filter out potential spam or to channel spam into a bulk email folder.

Limit Your Exposure: Try not to display your email address in public. That includes on blog posts, in chat rooms, on social networking sites or in online membership directories. Spammers use the web to harvest email addresses. Use good computer security practices and disconnect from the internet when you're away from your computer. Hackers can't get to your computer when it's not connected to the internet.

Choose a Unique Email Address: Your choice of email addresses may affect the amount of spam you receive. Spammers send out millions of messages to probable name combinations at large ISPs and email services, hoping to find a valid address. Thus a common name such as jdoe may get more spam than a more unique name like j26dOe34.

Reduce Spam for Everyone – Don't Let Spammers Use Your Computer: Hackers and spammers troll the internet looking for computers that aren't protected by up-to-date security software. Keeping your operating system and security software up to date are among the most important things you can do. When hackers and spammers find unprotected computers, they try to install hidden software – called malware – that allows them to control the computers remotely. Many thousands of these computers linked together make up a 'botnet,' a network used by spammers to send millions of emails at once. Millions of home computers are part of botnets. In fact, most spam is sent this way.

If you ever receive an email from SkyLine/SkyBest that you are suspicious about, don't hesitate to give us a call! It is always better to be safe than sorry. The primary purpose of these unsolicited messages from hackers is to extract personal information from unknowing consumers. As your Internet service provider, protection of your information is our top priority. We will never ask you for personal information through email. However, if you are ever in doubt, please reach out at 1-800-759-2226.

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

For every friend who gets installed with SkyBest High-Speed Internet, SkyBest Security or SkyBest Medical Alert Service as a result of your referral, you will get a \$100 credit on your bill. The referred "friend" will also receive a \$100 credit.

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.

CAMP DATES & LOCATIONS



Cooperative Leadership Camp Returns in 2026!

The Cooperative Council of the Carolinas' mission is to educate, connect and promote co-operatives. For decades, The Council continues to fulfill their mission by hosting Cooperative Leadership Camp (CLC) for high school students. In 2026, the Council is continuing its shift 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!

Apply online at: www.carolinacouncil.coop/events/cooperative-leadership-camp-2026

Recipe of the Month

Melt-In-Your-Mouth Lemon Bread

Ingredients:

- 1 lemon cake mix
- 1 cup boiling water
- 4 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 package instant lemon pudding
- 1/2 cup oil

Glaze:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 6 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon margarine, softened

Instructions:

Mix all bread ingredients together until mixture is smooth and creamy, about 4 minutes. Pour into two loaf pans. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes. Punch holes in cake and drizzle glaze over cake.

Recipe submitted by Glenda Rash



SkyLine Gives the Gift of Life

On February 4, SkyLine hosted its semi-annual blood drive. What better way to kick off the new year than to give the gift of life? Giving blood may seem like a small thing, but small things can make a huge difference.

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



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