FALL 2024 EDITION

NC 4-H HONOR CLUB NEWSLETTER

https://nc4hhonorclub.org/
nc4hhc@gmail.com.

HEARTLINE

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Written By : Jonie Stumbo

Historian's Report: 2024 in Review

2024 has been a busy year for North Carolina Honor Club members.

The 2024 annual Honor Club Conference was held May 31st - June 2nd with 34 members in attendance. Members enjoyed spending time with old friends, building new friendships, talking about what is going on in their county 4-H program, and relaxing by the lake. On Saturday, Honor Club members discussed important business, heard from Dr. Yoder, and voted in new Honor Club members that would be inducted at the annual 4-H Congress Honor Club Tapping Ceremony. Participants also participated in community service projects around Millstone 4-H Camp to help them prepare for the upcoming camp season. One service project included landscaping around the House that Peanuts Built and another included creating cards and bracelets for Little Pink Houses of Hope.

(Continued on page 2)

To see our Historian's report and slideshow of this past year in Honor Club, visit:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ayWnfiK0OPK1hqt-sEEdsRu2uBcqq5w5/view?usp=sharing

https://nc4hhonorclub.org/
nc4hhc@gmail.com

2024 in Review: Cont.

4-H Congress 2024 was held in Raleigh, North Carolina in July. The Honor Club Tapping Ceremony took place on Monday evening of the event. Twenty-six exceptional 4-H'ers were inducted as new Honor Club members; as well as Dr. Rich Bonanno as an honorary member.

On Thursday, Honor Club members helped with the incoming 2024 4-H State Officer elections. On Thursday, Honor Club members also worked to prepare the candle-lighting clover and assisted with the ceremony that night. Several 4-H Honor Club members assisted in other various capacities during
4-H Congress from leading service projects to lending their photography skills. The 4-H Honor Club Board looks forward to another fantastic year living our motto of SERVICE throughout our community, our country, and our world.

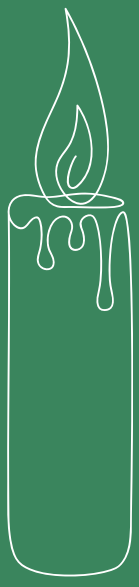
NEW INDUCTEES

This year, North Carolina Honor Club inducted 27 new members.

Let's welcome our new inductees!

Every year at NC 4-H Congress, we continue the beloved tradition of tapping in new Honor Club members. Our purple sash recognizes your significant achievements and accomplishments in North Carolina 4-H, and we couldn't be prouder to have you. Welcome to the family!

Colleen Cassell - Alleghany
Pierce Williams - Beaufort
Kimberly Lisk - Cabarrus
Selah Sigmon - Catawba
Matthew Peluso - Craven
Elijah Campbell - Currituck
Jackson Greer - Davidson
Thomas Bradley - Edgecombe
Jaileea Knight - Edgecombe
Lance Williams - Franklin
Rachel Clapp - Guilford
Maggie McCall - Henderson
Hannah Queen - Henderson
Katie Almanza - Jones
Julyanne Cazares - Jones
Jordan Mitchem - Lincoln



Lauren Hoesli - Orange
Sinead Morrow - Pender
Adam Henderson - Pitt
Addison Farris - Rockingham
Olivia Stirrup - Rowan
Malachi Evans - Stokes
Blake Garber - Union
Avery Bissette - Wilson
Caleb Heath - Wilson
Bryson Helton - Yadkin
Dr. Rich Bonanno - Vice Provost Outreach and Engagement, Director of NC State Extension, Associate Dean College of Agriculture and Life Sciences North Carolina State University

HONOR CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD

Every year at Honor Club Conference, new Executive Board members are elected to serve a year-long term assisting in the upkeep of Honor Club and its activities. Honor Club welcomes our new board members:

Chair of the Board

Cecilia Tadt, Gaston, 2016

President

Emmett LaHay, Nash, 2015

President-Elect

Dorothy Shutt, Guilford, 1975

Vice President

Chloe Allen, Johnston, 2019

Secretary

Anna Marie Morra, Cleveland, 2012

Treasurer

Rebecca Dietrich, Wake, 2013

Historian

Jonie Stumbo, Cleveland, 2014

Communications Coordinator

Hannah Vagnozzi, Gaston, 2022

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

South Central

Willie Earl Wilson, Wake, 1970

Leah Joyner, Stanly, 2013

West

Jacob Hanlon, Burke, 2023

Open position

North Central

Bonnie Cahall, Surry, 1989

Open position

Southeast

Elizabeth Merrill, Wayne, 2009

Amber Lackey, Sampson, 2018

Northeast

Endia Lewis, Iredell, 1995

Katie Haynes, Granville, 2017

Interested in serving as a West or North Central district director? Reach out to Cecilia Tadt at ceciliatadt@gmail.com for more information.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At NC 4-H Congress each year we have the privilege of welcoming new members through a solemn candle lighting ceremony that serves as a reminder of our commitment to passing the torch on, and fostering a new generation of 4-H'ers. This year I had the opportunity to help out with marking the lines for the candlelight clover, and got to participate in the candle lighting ceremony from a front row view in the center of the clover. Standing there, looking out at hundreds of 4-H'ers sitting on the Dorton bleachers at the peak of their 4-H career, I couldn't help but reminisce on the many who had been where they were, and gone on their way over the years. Most of the faces in the crowd that night were new to me, the familiar ones having long since moved on. But in those unfamiliar faces I could see the future of 4-H: New ideas, new members, and many future volunteers who will carry on following the gleam after we're gone.

That is my vision for 4-H Honor Club: That we will strive to build up new members through service and connections, just as we all have been built up in the past. When you're so heavily involved with 4-H, that moment when you age out can feel like falling off a cliff, cut off from this huge part of your life, from all the fond memories and friends you've made over the years. But through Honor Club, there is a way to stay involved with the 4-H community, and not lose touch.

Emmett LaHay, Nash, 2015
NC 4-H Honor Club President

What does that look like in practice you may be asking? Well, there are many ways you can get involved:

- Join the 4-H Honor Club Facebook group to keep up with what's going on in the community
- Reach out to your local Extension office for opportunities to volunteer and give back
  - Ask anyone on the Honor Club Board for volunteer ideas (We're always looking for help with workshops!)
- We have a "Wake Up, Meet Up" social planned for **January 25th, 2025 10am-12pm via zoom**, so keep an eye out for more details on that
- Honor Club conference is going to be on **May 30th-June 1st** next year, so go ahead and mark your calendars
- And read the rest of this newsletter for other events and opportunities to reconnect!

DATES & THINGS YOU MIGHT NEED TO KNOW

SAVE THE DATE! Honor Club Conference in 2025

May 30th-June 1st

Location: Millstone 4-H Camp
1296 Mallard Rd. Ellerbe, NC

Honor Club Conference this upcoming year will be held at 4-H Camp Millstone, and we need volunteers to help plan!

If you'd like to be on the Planning Committee for 2025 Honor Club Conference at Millstone 4-H Camp, contact Dorothy Shutt, dfshutt@gmail.com, by October 31, 2024.

Winter Meetup Date

JOIN US!

We'll be having our annual "Wake Up, Meet Up" Honor Club meeting next year.

It will be on January 25th, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Eastern Time on Zoom. Click the link to register: https://go.ncsu.edu/honorclubmeetup

A Zoom link will be sent out closer to the event date.

(Upcoming events continued on page 7)

Want to run for Honor Club Board?

Would you like to serve as an Honor Club Board Member? Honor Club Board members are responsible for new member applications, planning Honor Club Conference, running the *Heartline*, engaging members, answering any and all burning questions, and more! We hope that you'll run for a position at Honor Club Conference 2025! To find out more information, contact us at: nc4hhc@gmail.com

Do you love bluegrass music?

Join us at the 6th Annual Pickin' in the Pines Bluegrass and BBQ Benefit Concert on Oct 19, 2024.

All proceeds provide scholarships to help send underserved youth to camp at Millstone.

Read More on Millstone's website below, or see the event on their Facebook page.

https://www.millstone4hcamp.com/pickin-in-the-pines.html

2025 Volunteer Leader's Conference

Calling all leaders! We'll be having our Volunteer Leaders Conference shortly--so don't miss out!

The dates are January 31st-February 2nd in Greensboro, NC. Keep an eye out on Facebook for more information, or visit: https://nc4h.ces.ncsu.edu/nc4h-volunteers/

SERVICE WITH HONOR CLUB

Continuing "To Make the Best Better" through continued service to 4-H and the youth of North Carolina

This page is dedicated to SERVICE within Honor Club. Here we recognize Honor Club's dedication to giving back to the 4-H community each year.

Smiling While Sending Hope

Katie Haynes

Katie Haynes is the founder and CEO of Smiling While Sending Hope. Smiling While Sending Hope creates care packages for individuals with chronic illness and special needs from birth to 26. They also host a toy drive at Christmas that benefits all of the local Children's Hospitals and Ronald McDonald Houses in the Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill area. In 2023, Smiling While Sending Hope started offering caregiver and family outings throughout the year to provide a safe space for everyone to gather and feel connected. At the North Carolina 4-H Congress, they partnered with our youth for a large no-sew blanket service project for around 200 folks. On the second day, they also made cards and more blankets.

To find out more information, visit: https://www.facebook.com/SmilingWhileSendingHope/

Little Pink Houses of Hope

Chloe Allen

Over the summer, Honor Club and NC 4-H members put our hands to larger service for Little Pink Houses of Hope, a Burlington, NC based nonprofit that provides free, week-long retreats to families affected by breast cancer. Honor Club members had the opportunity to participate in this service at Honor Club Conference, where attendees banded together to make 19 cards and 18 bracelets to gift to the breast cancer patients who receive these retreats. At 4-H Congress, 4-Hers learned about Little Pink Houses of Hope at the citizenship & civic engagement session. Together, 4-Hers made 23 cards and 53 bracelets to gift to the retreat recipients. All together, Honor Club and NC 4-H members made enough gifts to send cards to four retreats and to send bracelets to seven retreats.

To find out more information, visit: https://www.littlepink.org/

(Upcoming opportunities continued on page 10)

HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS

In response to the recent devastation caused by the hurricanes, the state staff will be putting together some programs on programming for youth during disasters.

Our hearts go out to all the communities and families impacted, especially our 4-H families in the affected areas. Stay tuned for details on how you can get involved in this important initiative.

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Thank you for your continued dedication to service.

Sincerely,

NC 4-H Honor Club

CLOVER CONNECTIONS

Maintaining our connections through friendship

Wedding Bells

We're so excited to hear that Kat got married this April!

Kat Stulpin-Fasciano, Catawba, 2017

Anthony and Joah also (finally) tied the knot this fall!

Anthony Vagnozzi, Cleveland, 2016
Joah (Bickley) Vagnozzi, Rutherford, 2016

Updates from our friends in Honor Club

We want to be able to keep in touch with you, and we want you to stay connected so you can give and get the most out of your Honor Club membership! The best way to stay involved is to make sure your contact information is up-to-date so you'll never miss any Honor Club news or chances to get involved in SERVICE! You can get notifications as soon as we post an update by joining our Honor Club Facebook group! The Facebook group is the best way to stay on top of event reminders, learn about new opportunities as soon as they're announced, and connect with your Honor Club friends.

Want to share your update? Click here!

Passions

After "retiring" from my full time + job of 28 years, in January of this year I launched a new "hobby/passion" business Bob's Brittle. Many people in the cooperative extension world knew my dad Bob and had the chance to enjoy his peanut brittle. He left us too soon (2020), but I learned the secrets and recipe and in addition to gifting, began selling to quite a few markets and small businesses.

Greg Swain, Duplin, 1978

CLOVER CONNECTIONS

Maintaining our connections through friendship

Little Ones

Elizabeth and her husband Andrew are preparing to welcome their first born in October of 2024! Andrew and Elizabeth have been married for eight years and currently reside in Goldsboro, NC.

Elizabeth Merrill, Wayne, 2009

Other Life Updates

The Morras bought a house! After moving to Wisconsin two years ago to begin new jobs at Epic Systems, Anna Marie (Vagnozzi) Morra and her husband Todd purchased their new home in Fitchburg, Wisconsin this summer.

Anna Marie (Vagnozzi) Morra, Cleveland, 2012

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Call for volunteers: NC State Fair

This year, the North Carolina State Fair is once again providing NC 4-H with a presence in the Educational Building, offering both 4-H youth and adults the opportunity to staff the 4-H exhibit area. Our team will be available to answer questions about the 4-H program and share its story. The Fair will run from **Thursday, October 17 to Sunday, October 27, 2024.** We are excited to showcase over 500 items in various categories, including Crafts, Entomology, Photography, County Exhibits, Hay Bales, and Livestock. This is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the 4-H Youth Development program and its impact.

We are seeking **two to three registered 4-H youth and one adult** to work each time block during the event. A single county group will staff each shift and must include an adult who is either a parent or a 4-HOnline-approved volunteer. We ask that all participating youth and adults wear a 4-H shirt that represents their county, program, or another aspect of their 4-H experience. We know you and your 4-H members have plenty of 4-H apparel!

Volunteers will be assigned a 3-hour shift, during which they will engage with fair visitors, discuss the 4-H program, and share their personal 4-H experiences. We encourage participation from 4-H members, volunteers, county staff, alumni, camp staff, state staff, and more.

You will be stationed in the 4-H Crafts Area, with a designated spot for your group. **The NC State Fair will provide an entry pass for each volunteer working a full 3-hour shift, as well as one parking pass per shift. Please note that the parking pass must be returned at the same location where it was picked up at the end of the day.** Carpooling is highly recommended as we can only issue one parking pass per shift due to limited availability. Passes can be picked up and returned at a designated NC State building near the fairgrounds, as in previous years.

Below is a link to sign up for a shift. Please fill out all requested information so we can plan accordingly. You may share this link and letter with your 4-H volunteers if needed. The letter is also linked below for your convenience.

Volunteer Opportunity Letter: NC State Fair 4-H Volunteer Opportunity
REGISTRATION LINK: https://go.ncsu.edu/statefairvolunteer

Do not share these links outside of our registered 4-H & Extension family.
Once you open the Excel sheet in Google Drive, you will find a separate tab at the bottom for each day of the Fair. Depending on your screen size, you may need to scroll to view all the tabs. Please refrain from deleting any entries unless you made them, and do not add any new tabs.
To sign up, select the tab for the day you wish to work and enter your available time. Shifts are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so please only modify your own entries. The schedule begins on Friday, October 18th.

I will provide detailed instructions and information before your scheduled shift.
If you have questions, please let me know via email: shannon_mccollum@ncsu.edu

Thanks,

Shannon B. McCollum, Ed.D
Extension Associate, 4-H Youth Development Specialist

MORE OPPORTUNITIES

There are multiple ways to engage with Honor Club and SERVE North Carolina 4-H:

- Judging Project Record Books & Portfolios
- Judging Presentations at District Activity Days and 4-H Congress
- Helping plan Honor Club Conference
- Volunteering at the Honor Club Reception, State Officer Elections, and Candlelight Clover Ceremony at 4-H Congress
- Volunteering to lead workshops at various state, district, and county events

You can stay up-to-date on all Honor Club involvement opportunities by joining our member Facebook group or visiting our website. See the links at the bottom of the page!

North Carolina 4-H Honor Club c/o Dr. Shannon B. McCollum Campus Box 7655 NCSU Raleigh, NC 27695-7655

Have something you'd like to see featured in the *Heartline* member newsletter? Contact Hannah Vagnozzi, Honor Club Communications Coordinator, at littlehvswag46@gmail.com Join our member group on Facebook! https://www.facebook.com/groups/18782542975/ Visit our website at www.nc4hhonorclub.org