



Keeping the Legacy Alive

THE TORCH

THE WV 4-H ALL STARS

SUMMER 2021

Welcome to the 2021 WV 4-H All Stars Conference at Jackson's Mill

"Jackson's Mill and Autumn Leaves . . . 100 Years of Falling in Love"

Billie Jo Ryman
First Lessor Chief

Who is ready to head back to Mill? I am and I hope you are too. Please join us for the 2021 WV 4-H All Stars Conference at Jackson's Mill, September 17th -19th. This year, we will celebrate being back together with many of our traditional activities, including our business meeting, an in person All Star Consecration and Initiation ceremony, a live auction and memorial service. Also, with "Jackson's Mill and Autumn Leaves: 100 Years of Falling in Love" as our theme, we will commemorate Jackson's Mill's 100th Birthday!

As in years past, Jackson's Mill has a Check-In time for your accommodations beginning at 2pm on Friday afternoon and our conference registration table will open at 4pm. Friday evening, we will enjoy a nice dinner together and then gather in the Assembly Hall for some fun trivia followed by Walking Meditations and treats. Should someone like to volunteer to organize a Council Circle during evening Meditations, please contact me by email at dreamingstar@frontier.com or by phone at 304-839-7125 to discuss further details.

Rise and shine on Saturday morning for a healthy breakfast followed by our annual business meeting at 9am. After lunch, it is my hope to carry out our motto: Service, by performing a service project. At 3pm, we will wel-

Once. Twice.Sold!

One of the highlights of our annual conference is our live auction and we need your help in reviving this annual tradition. If you have items you would like to donate, please contact Billie Jo Ryman email at dreamingstar@frontier.com or by phone at 304-839-7125. Arrangements can be made to either have items sent to Billie Jo or can be brought to the conference in September. Members will decide how the proceeds from the auction will be spent during the Saturday business meeting. Proceeds from previous auctions have gone towards snack for state camps, our service projects and to fund the Hands to Larger Service Mini Grants.

come our All Star Class of 2021 during our Consecration and Initiation ceremony. At 5:15pm, we will enjoy a nice dinner followed by our recognition of the 2021 Outstanding All Stars. We cap of the night with a highlight of our weekend – our Live Auction at 7pm. As always, auction items are needed, and everyone enjoys seeing the Hand-made and Home-made items. We will decide during the business meeting as to where the proceeds will go.

Sunday morning, we will meet in the Chapel at 8:30am for our traditional Memorial Service followed by brunch before departing for home. Check out time is 11am.

Please start making plans now to join us September 17-19, 2021 for the All Star Conference. It is always a great weekend to reconnect with old friends and make new ones from across our great state. Until then, have a great Summer and we will see you in the Fall!

Important Conference Info

Friday, September 17, 2021

Check-in: 2pm

Registration Opens: 4pm

Saturday, September 18, 2021

Business Meeting: 9am

Consecration and Initiation: 3pm

Live Auction: 7pm

Sunday, September 19, 2021

Memorial Service: 8:30am

Check-out: 11am

**Conference Package Pricing automatically includes dorm style lodging, in a cottage, at Jackson's Mill. For those interested in upgrading to Lodge accommodations, please contact Jackson's Mill directly at 304-269-5100 to secure your reservation and provide additional payment.

Registration Deadline is August 31, 2021.

The Chief's Signal

*K.J. Keys
Chief, 4-H All Stars*



Greetings, All Stars!

I am pleased to report our organization has had a busy Spring and early Summer. In mid-May, your Executive Committee had a very productive meeting on a range of topics, including the acceptance of nominees for the All Star Class of 2021. After careful review of the applications submitted by the April 15 deadline, the selection committee approved the acceptance of 93 new All Stars this year. While it is never easy to put in words the level of services one does for both 4-H and their community, the committee was very pleased to see the level of accomplishment for each one of these nominees and is confident in their selection. In the near future, I will be notifying each nominee of their acceptance and providing them with information to attend their Consecration Ceremony. Since State 4-H Camps will not be happening again this Summer, the Executive Committee has decided to provide nominees the option to either attend the Consecration Ceremony in person during our annual conference or participate virtually through Zoom that same day. I know this is not ideal, but until we return to our “normal” schedule of events, it is important to provide these deserving nominees every opportunity to become full members of our group. Regardless of how they attend, I am looking forward to welcoming new faces and new ideas to our organization. Please know, as WV 4-H All Stars, you may also nominate someone for this special honor. Instruction on how to submit nominations for the Class of 2022 will be posted on our website and in subsequent issues of *The Torch*.

Also, I hope you are planning to attend our annual conference this September at Jackson's Mill. Our First Lessor Chief, Billie Jo Ryman, has been working diligently to put together a memorable event you won't want to miss. All the information you need to attend is provided in this issue of *The Torch*, so make your reservations early, get your registrations in and join us September 17-19, 2021.

In all, I hope you are enjoying your Summer and have had an opportunity to reminisce about your Summers as a 4-H member or leader. Maybe it was working on projects books, completing a community service project, attending local or state camps, or even exhibiting at a county fair, these memories help sustain us into

Snively to Lead Jackson's Mill

WVU Extension Service recently announced that Ritchie County Extension Agent David Snively has been appointed Director of WVU Jackson's Mill, effective July 1, 2021. Snively, who served as interim director beginning in December 2020, has been instrumental in reimagining programming opportunities at the Mill, including the expansion of opportunities and activities for West Virginia youths, as well as Mill visitors and guests. Snively has also developed a long-term strategic plan for the facility and has been working collab-



David Snively

oratively with WVU Extension and WVU leadership to identify infrastructure needs at the historic Mill. Congratulations!

the future. In fact, as we emerge from the global pandemic, we recognize the traumatic experience this has been for so many and that we need 4-H memories more than ever. I like to think about my time as a camper and how those experiences not only put a smile on my face, both then and now, but allowed me to build lasting friendships from across the state – a connection still important today. As the years have passed, I am also grateful for the WV 4-H All Stars and the five tenets that our star represents: Beauty, Fortitude, Service, Truth and Love. If there was ever a time in our lives that we needed to see beauty in the small things, overcome adversity with our heads held high, continue giving back in our communities, accept our “new” reality and love our neighbor, it is right now. Our Star has lifted us up, provided us our strength and I know will carry us forward to a brighter tomorrow. Enjoy the rest of your Summer and I look forward to seeing each of you at the Mill in September.

WEST VIRGINIA 4-H ALL STAR OFFICERS 2020 - 2021

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2025 Interstate Comm. Carolyn Costello	grampape@comcast.net	

Region 1: Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, Ohio, Pleasants and Wetzel Counties

Region 2: Doddridge, Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Taylor and Tucker Counties

Region 3: Calhoun, Gilmer, Jackson, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt and Wood Counties

Region 4: Barbour, Braxton, Clay, Lewis, Randolph, Upshur and Webster Counties

Region 5: Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan and Pendleton Counties

Region 6: Boone, Cabell, Kanawha, Lincoln, Mason, Putnam and Wayne Counties

Region 7: Fayette, Greenbrier, Monroe, Nicholas, and Pocahontas Counties

Region 8: Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Raleigh, Summers and Wyoming Counties

WVU Extension Dean Committed To Making the Best Better

Nearly one year ago Jorge Atilés embarked on a new journey as WVU's Dean of Extension and Engagement. After visiting the WVU campus in spring of 2020, he immediately fell in love with the people and the beauty of the state. But more importantly, he was impressed by the work of WVU Extension Service, including the programs and outreach geared toward West Virginia youths.

Although the past year has presented a number of challenges, Dean Atilés is proud of and encouraged by the phenomenal work of Extension's faculty, staff, volunteers and others who helped us not only navigate the pandemic, but also strengthened our ability to reach people when they needed us most. He noted that the pandemic provided unique opportunities for WVU Extension to look at how we deliver programming – something that he hopes to build on moving forward.

"I certainly look forward to returning to a new sense of normalcy in the coming year. I enjoy meeting people and learning more about how Extension has changed their lives. That interaction is critical to the work we do," Dean Atilés said. "The pandemic also forced us to look at how we deliver programming to the citizens of the state. Having a blend of in-person and virtual activities allows us to expand our reach to truly 'meet people where they are' and how they want to be reached."

Although much of Dean Atilés' interactions have been done over Zoom or other virtual formats, his presence can be felt across the WVU campus (and state) where he has been busy forging relationships and identifying opportunities for collaboration to help West Virginia. He feels passionate



Dean Jorge Atilés

about helping young people learn the skills they need to succeed, including programming focused on entrepreneurship, leadership and 21st century skills. He also knows that Extension plays a critical role in community development, including opportunities to enhance tourism around the state.

"The resources and expertise we have available through partnerships at WVU are critical to the work we do to carry out our land-grant mission," he said. "There are so many opportunities for unique collaborations that provide knowledge and research to our citizens to improve their livelihoods. We can do so much more when we work together, and I am committed to ensuring that not only do the people of West Virginia have those resources, but that WVU Extension also has the support our faculty and staff need in those communities."

During a recent question and answer session, Dean Atilés responded to the following questions: **What are you**

looking forward to in the coming year? "Getting out and meeting people face-to-face is at the top of my list. WVU Extension has an outstanding community of volunteers and leaders who help make our programs successful. Our faculty and staff do so much and having such a dedicated group of people who make sure we 'make the best better' makes me very grateful. I really look forward to being able to thank them in person for all they do for us." **Why is 4-H important, particularly to West Virginia youths?** "It prepares them to succeed. It allows them to discover something new about themselves and the potential they have to learn and be amazing citizens of West Virginia and the world." **Your vision for the future of WVU Extension Service?** "To address the most critical issues affecting the state and to reach every single West Virginian with educational programs that allow them to live well and improve their livelihoods."

A native of the Dominican Republic, Dean Atilés earned a bachelor's degree from the Universidad Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña, Dominican Republic, and his master's degree and PhD from Virginia Tech. Before joining WVU, he was associate dean for Extension, engagement and continuing education for the Colleges of Education, Health, Aviation and Human Sciences at Oklahoma State University. Prior to his role at OSU, he served as associate dean for Outreach and Extension at the University of Georgia.

"I certainly look forward to returning to a new sense of normalcy in the coming year. I enjoy meeting people and learning more about how Extension has changed their lives. That interaction is critical to the work we do," Dean Atilés said.



Hands To Larger Service

BERKELEY COUNTY

In Berkeley County, these dedicated 4-Hers learned another important life skill with the assistance of the Hands to Larger Service Grant: Carpentry. Camp Frame in the Eastern Panhandle is the home away from home for countless 4-H members and volunteers who have attended Tri-County 4-H Camp. As with all camping locations, regular maintenance is of utmost importance and the porch at the Camp Nurse’s Cabin is no different. Led by Aleynah Miller and assisted by Caretaker Caleb Smalley, her crew of Brady Chrisman, Malachi Cloud and Skyler Hutton, replaced the entire porch on this cabin



MINERAL COUNTY

In Mineral County, thanks to a dedicated group of 4-Hers from the Denim & Dirt 4-H Club and local volunteers, a Blessing Box was installed in Fort Ashby. The project, “Take what you need, Leave what you can” exemplifies the 4 Hs of Head, Heart Hands and Health by providing those in need with access to food, personal care items, and school supplies. How How! *Pictured (L-R): Logan Russell; Eli Cummings; Victoria Russell; Everly Dillon; Haley Adams; Cole Adams; Lucas Nestor; Raley Nestor; Berkley Kidwell; and Nixon Kidwell.*



TAYLOR COUNTY

Six Taylor County Teen Leaders came together at Camp Towles on May 22nd and completed a project started by the Taylor County 4-H Robotics Team in 2019. As part of their FIRST LEGO League competition, they designed and built playground panels to help special needs youth feel included. In pre-pandemic 2020, the Teen Leaders received a \$150 mini-grant to build additional panels and were finally able to finish the project. One set of the panels will be installed at West Taylor Elementary School and the other at Castle Creek Playground in Fetterman.



Pictured are Teen Leaders James Helmondollar; Matthew Helmondollar; Alex Himes; Emily Himes; Kellen Lambert; Melanie Castillo; and Robotics Team Coach Corey Himes.



HARRISON COUNTY

Recently members of the Harrison County 4-H All Stars completed two service projects at Jackson's Mill. These included leveling, weeding, and mulching the area around the newly installed All Star Benches leading to the Council Circle and weeding of the All Star Rose Garden. Members pulled and disposed of the weeds, fed and trimmed the roses, and put a coating of seven Dust on them to protect from pests. How How!



All Star Selection Saturday 2021!

One Saturday, May 22, All Stars on the Executive Committee and representing 5 counties, met at Jackson's Mill to select the All Star Class of 2021. After careful review of all applications submitted, 94 new All Stars were accepted into the organization. All new members have received notification by Chief Keys and have been invited to participate in the upcoming Consecration and Induction Ceremony during the conference in September.



All Star Rose Garden—Reimagined!

Created in the 1960's, the Rose Garden at Jackson's Mill was planted to provide roses for the 4-H All Star initiation ceremonies each year. In 1975, an endowment was established with the WVU Foundation by Harrison Co. 4-H All Star James V Morris to provide ongoing maintenance and care for the garden. Known from that point as the James V. Morris All Star Rose Garden, it was originally placed behind Calhoun Cottage, but moved to its current location behind Gilmer Cottage, in 1980, to allow the roses to flourish in full sunlight.

Cared for, for many years, by Mill staff and a host of All Star volunteers, the garden has gone through many phases of transition in its nearly sixty years of existence. Having fallen into disrepair and showing signs of damage from wildlife, a shelter was erected in 1999 by the Berkeley Co. 4-H All Stars to protect the roses. However, with the best of intentions

comes great responsibility and with dwindling staff and volunteer assistance, the Rose Garden faced many challenges in the decades since, namely deteriorated fencing and horticulture related issues with the rose bushes which prevented their continued growth.

With ample funding available through the Morris Endowment, a multi-year collaboration was started in 2015 to develop a plan for the complete renovation of the garden. Spearheaded by Kristi Gannon, President of the Lewis Co. All Stars, a group of volunteers, including retired Harrison Co. Ag. Agent, Larry Campbell, and Emeritus WVU Extension Service Horticulture Specialist, John Jett, worked together on the redesign to include the planting of new roses and installation of a new fence structure. The work was performed by Chuck Greaver, a Lewis Co. Contractor, and was completed in Fall 2019.



Pictured is the newly renovated James V. Morris 4-H All Star Rose Garden.



WEST VIRGINIA 4-H ALL STARS

P.O. Box 191
Elizabeth, WV 26143

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Keeping the Legacy Alive

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Re-Engaging with 4-H

Brent Clark, Director, 4-H Youth Development
WVU Extension Service

As we start to wrap up our second “COVID Summer” I want to take a moment to reflect on all of the great things that have happened over the past few months. While the summer of 2021 has had its fair share of challenges, it has also brought a great deal of hope and excitement as we head towards the start of a new 4-H year this October. We have continued to work through on-going guideline changes, and with that has come the ability to resume more in-person opportunities throughout the state. While it may not be exactly what we have come to know from the past, we have successfully brought youth together for overnight 4-H experiences at Jackson’s Mill, day camps in their counties, youth agriculture events, virtual experiences, Energy Express, fairs, festivals, and much more!

As we continue moving forward, we are cognizant of the next big challenge facing WVU Extension and 4-H - How do we continue to engage, and now re-engage, individuals with our program? Since March 2020, everything has been scaled back, including 4-H, and the youth, families, volunteers, and others associated with 4-H are deciding how (or if) they will continue doing many things they loved doing prior to the pandemic. In fact, this is not exclusive to 4-H.

Many other groups, clubs, and organizations throughout our state and Nation are facing the very same challenges. It is with that knowledge we must redouble our efforts in promoting a program that means so much to so many. Nevertheless, change is inevitable within 4-H. In an everchanging world, we must continue to reevaluate the needs of the youth we serve, including the programs and projects we offer. Also, we need to remind ourselves changes within 4-H have been happening since the early 1900s and that is how 4-H has withstood the test of time. It is how those who came before us ensured 4-H remained relevant, and it is what we must also do for the future of the program.

As West Virginia 4-H All Stars, I am hopeful we can find new ways to support and encourage 4-H events and activities this Fall. Maybe by encouraging your children or grandchildren to get involved? Maybe by re-engaging yourself as a volunteer in your community through your gifts of time, talent, financial support, open minds, and testimonials. All Stars can help us as we look to engage others and ensure our Extension and 4-H programs best represent and reflect the great people of West Virginia. I am confident we will see new and exciting opportunities in 4-H come to life in the months and years ahead and I thank you in advance for your continued support of the WVU Extension 4-H program.

THE TORCH

The Torch is the official publication of the West Virginia 4-H All Stars.

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EXTENSION SERVICE

2021 WV 4-H All Star Conference Registration Friday September 17th - Sunday September 19th, 2021

This weekend will provide recognition for WV 4-H All-Stars. The 4-H All-Star Consecration Ceremony will be held during this weekend. Online conference registration, including credit card payment, is available by going to: <https://4h.zsuite.org/external-event-registration/7286>. If you already have a WVU 4-H ZSuite Account please use your account to register.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____
First Last Maiden (if applicable) Name Tag First Name

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Cell Phone: () _____

Email: _____ Shirt size: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone Number: () _____

ALL STAR INFORMATION

County Initiated: _____ Camp/Event and Year Initiated: _____

Life Member: Yes No Year: _____ Are you a past WV State 4-H All Star Chief? Yes No

REGISTRATION PACKAGES

Please select each day you plan to attend. Dorm lodging (cottage) is automatically included in the package. Participants interested in upgrading to Lodge accommodations or Private Housing must contact Jackson's Mill directly at 304-269-5100 to secure the reservation and provide additional payment.

Friday Package This package includes Friday Dinner, Meditations, Activities/Snack, and Saturday Breakfast. If you plan to stay for Saturday's workshops and events please make sure to add the Saturday package.
\$20.00

Please select if you require Dorm accommodations for Friday Night at Jackson's Mill.

Saturday Package The Saturday package includes: Breakfast, Business Meeting, Lunch, Service Project, Consecration, Initiation, Dinner, and Live Auctions
\$0.00

Please select if you require Dorm accommodation for Saturday Night at Jackson's Mill.

Sunday Package The Sunday package includes: Morning Memorial Service and Breakfast
\$10.00

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please mail your completed registration form with payment to: 4-H Event Coordinator, P O Box 6031, Morgantown, WV 26506-6031. Checks are payable to West Virginia University (NO CASH). Registration and payment deadline is August 31, 2021.