



Keeping the Legacy Alive

THE TORCH

THE WV 4-H ALL STARS

SUMMER 2022

Forging the Road Ahead— Welcome Back to Jackson's Mill!

Shay Teter—1st Lessor Chief

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, you are a leader." —John Quincy Adams

I hope this *Torch* finds everyone well and enjoying their summer! After a tough few years, it has renewed my spirit to see youth returning to camps and other 4-H activities. Being without for the past two summers has been hard, but I am elated to see such happy faces sitting around the council fire once again. As All Stars and leaders in the 4-H program, you should be proud of yourselves for helping to keep the 4-H spirit alive while it seemed most difficult. Now that our youth have had their return to the camp setting, it is finally OUR turn!

In fact, after such a long time away, our conference planning committee, during the early stages of our discussions, felt this was a perfect opportunity to start anew with the theme of "Forging the Road Ahead". Of course, for us to follow this theme through, we will need everyone to come together in our effort to best support our 4-H program. With that in mind, the committee decided to include others, as we have in the past, who share our same goal to forge ahead with WV 4-H. As such, I am pleased to invite you to the 2022 West Virginia 4-H Volunteer & All Star Weekend! Now, more than ever, I believe it is important to gather our alumni and leadership from across the spectrum to help carry the 4-H program into the future. More importantly, this weekend will be an excellent opportunity for non All Stars to understand the importance of our organization in serving 4-Hers across West Virginia. After receiving input from many of you who completed our recent survey, we have a GREAT weekend planned. There will be a craft workshop, team trivia, service project opportunities, a live demonstration of Jackson's Mill historic area activities, and of course our very own council circle! We will also not forget more formal activities such as the business meeting, Consecration, and Initiation of brand new All Stars!

We are pleased to bring you this entire weekend at a low cost of \$50, which includes dorm style lodging and

all meals for the weekend. To register, please use the following links to find a quick registration form with all things necessary to get you signed up! For those with a current ZSuite account, please use: <https://4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/13740>. For those of you who do not have a ZSuite account, please use: <https://4h.zsuite.org/external-event-registration/13740>. While we can no longer provide a paper registration form, we also know not everyone has access to a computer or internet. If you, or someone you know, would like to attend this weekend and need assistance in registering online, please reach out to me, any Executive Committee member (contact information was published in the Spring 2022 Torch), or even your local Extension Office. We would love to have you and are happy to get you registered! I encourage everyone to keep serving and making the best better! See you in September! Registration deadline is Sunday, September 11th.

PRELIMINARY Schedule (subject to change)

Friday, September 30, 2022

- 4:30- Registration begins (will continue throughout the evening)
- 5:00- Buffet style dinner begins
- 7:00 - All Star Business Meeting
- 8:00-? Workshops, Reflections, Snacks

Saturday, October 1, 2022

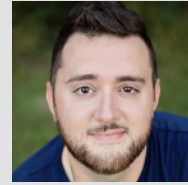
- 8:00- Breakfast
- 9:00- Workshops/Service Projects/recreation
- 12:15- Lunch
- 1:00- Workshops/Service Projects/recreation
- 4:30- All Star Consecration
- 7:00- Donna Michael Celebration of Life
- 7:30- Council Circle
- 9:00- Evening entertainment/Snacks

Sunday, October 2, 2022

- 8:00- Breakfast
- 9:00- Reflections/Memorial Ceremony
- 10:00- Historic Area tour/demonstrations

The Chief's Signal

Abrebrum Schoonover
Chief, 4-H All Stars



“Those “All Stars” who were presented at the 1919 Course reacted favorably to the suggestion of “Teepi” Kendrick, that they had now reached the stage in their fourfold development where they should assume some responsibility for the advancement of the 4-H program, not only in their home communities, but generally throughout the state. Banding together in a definite organization seemed to be a logical step, particularly from the standpoint of state-wide support of 4-H activities.” *Condensed From the 1969 West Virginia All Star 50th Anniversary Memory Book*

As I read this excerpt, one of the words really resonated with me. Responsibility. They were assuming responsibility for the advancement of the 4-H program. Seems daunting does it not? Countless All Stars came before us and forged the way so that we could stand on their shoulders and make the best better.

I would bet that nearly every person reading this has fond memories surrounding 4-H. Every camp that you went to, every event you attended, every fundraiser you participated in was planned and executed by extension personnel, leaders, and an army of volunteers. Your memories took weeks, months, and even years of planning, but in the blink of an eye they were over and it was time to start planning the next one. Why do we do it? We do it because we know it's worth it and we have a *responsibility*.

All Faith Chapel Update

Carol Ann Jackson Young, Lewis County All Star

I am glad to report that thanks in large part to a very sizable contribution from the United Methodist Men of West Virginia and donations through the WVU Foundation's Day of Caring, we have reached our goal of \$15,000 to make the necessary repairs to the All Faith Chapel. In fact, I recently talked with WVU Jackson's Mill Director Dave Snively and was informed that the contractor, Heflin Construction, who provided our initial estimate over a year ago, has generously agreed to honor this estimate despite rising costs. Moreover, Dave and his staff have agreed to oversee the repairs being done and are working with the contractor on a starting date, hopefully by the end of August or the first of September. Thanks to all of those who donated to this important project. However, with any project, additional costs can arise and establishing the \$50,000 endowment for future upkeep and repairs to the chapel is critically important. I will keep you informed on the progress made to the chapel and the establishment of the endowment. Again, thank you to all who have donated and please spread the word.

“Help will always be given ... to those who ask for it.” – Albus Dumbledore

Never have I found this to be more true than in 4-H. A responsibility becomes less daunting when there are people to help and all you have to do is ask. As All Stars we are called to serve. You could say we have a responsibility. The pin we wear is less of an award or achievement and more like a fluorescent yellow work vest that says “Ask me! I can help.” on the back.

You might be thinking “well I don't know where to start”, but again, all you have to do is ask. Ask your county extension agent, ask your county All Stars, or even ask someone on the executive committee. We are a puzzle and YOU are the missing piece. We aren't complete without you.

As we finish our camping season, I'd like to encourage you to contemplate about your responsibility to serve. These past two years have undoubtedly been rough and getting things up and running again will certainly be a task where our help is needed. If you'd like to reconnect or are looking for a way to get involved, I'd like to encourage you to consider attending the West Virginia 4-H Volunteer Leaders and All Star Weekend. Details are enclosed in this issue of *The Torch*.

So, let's get started! See you at the mill!



Council Circle and Campfire Programs in the Making

In the Spring issue of *The Torch*, we were pleased to provide you with an article outlining the history of Jackson's Mill leading up to the first camp in 1921. However, just as important is the history of the whole of the Mill is the history of the many parts that make up camp each year. In this issue, we hope you enjoy the history behind Council Circle provided to us by Joe Obidzinski, Program Coordinator for History and Heritage with WVU Jackson's Mill from the Jackson's Mill Archives.

Jackson's Mill continued to grow as new projects were under way all across the grounds during the first year. One of the most important sites at Jackson's Mill was less of a large-scale construction project and more about selecting a perfect spot.

Council programs (campfire programs) were held all the way back at the first Volunteer's Camp in 1921, and the first programs were held in the area near the old mill. As additional land was added, there was more space to spread out and a new site was chosen. In 1948, early Kendrick collaborator and future Jackson's Mill Director, Charles "Uncle Charlie" Hartley, shared the story of how the Council Circle's permanent location was selected. According to Hartley, during a camp in 1922, two 4-H campers were walking through a patch of woods and they stumbled upon an ideal campfire location. The spot had a natural, fairly open area in the middle of which a fire could be built. The only problem with the site was a giant oak tree right in the center. The young men shared their discovery and their quandary—they did not want to cut down the tree, but without doing so they would have to find another place. Later that night, a heavy rainstorm swept through the area. When they returned to the site the following morning, lightning had destroyed a large portion of the tree. Their quandary thus resolved, the remnants of the tree were removed, and campfires have been held there ever since.

With the area selected and cleared, the work of laying out the recognizable elements began. The layout of the area

was done according to guidance and suggestions from an early youth camp pioneer, whom Kendrick had met previously during visits to other youth camps. Concentric rings of wooden benches were located on nearly every side of the embankment, giving every audience member a clear view of the center of the circle where the fire was built. The only breaks in the circle of benches were directly across from one another: the main aisle and Council Rock. The aisle served as the entry point to council circle. Directly across from the opening is Council Rock, a carved wooden bench where the moderator of the campfire program sits. The wooden benches of council circle were rebuilt various times throughout the years as they tended to wear out over time through use and the elements.

In 2015, through the generosity of donors, as well as an outpouring of donations by former and current campers, a large-scale renovation of the site saw the installation of longer-lasting benches, a concrete pad under the entire area, and additional space for seating to accommodate larger groups. Ramps and walkways were also added to increase accessibility for all visitors and campers. Additionally, in 2018, donations were raised to complete a covered footbridge, walking path, and increased lighting, all of which made movement to and from council circle easier.

After the fire destroyed the first cattle barn in 1956, there was a brief discussion about moving Council Circle. It was quickly decided to keep it in the same location, and it has remained there since those two campers stumbled upon the spot over one hundred years ago.

Over the last century, nearly every 4-H camper has created their own memories around the campfire at Council Circle. While many of the memories are about gathering with fellow campers, Council Circle is also a favorite spot for people to sit alone, relax, and reflect on their time.

For a full history of Jackson's Mill, please visit the WVU Jackson's Mill Facebook page.

(Continued on page 4)



Council Circle circa 1934



Council Circle prior to renovations

Council Circle, Campfire Programs (Continued from page 3)



Council Circle renovations nearing completion. ▲

Council Circle 2015. ►



Treasurer's Report

Jordan Pruett, Treasurer

In an effort to be fully transparent with our membership, it is important that we share with you the finances of the organization and lay out the current funds available to us and the need to increase our donations.

Currently, the All Stars have two accounts that are maintained – a checking account for General Revenue items and a WVU Foundation account. Historically, our General Revenue funds come from the sale of All Stars merchandise, fundraisers, and donations. Interest accrued on the WVU Foundation account allows for a certain amount of spend that we use to fund our Youth in Action awards and to supplement our General Revenue account. To date, our WVU Foundation endowed account has a balance of \$118,324 and all Life Dues received are deposited into this endowment.

Of course, our primary source of income comes from

you, our members and your generosity. In fact, the money raised through fundraising and donations is used to sponsor our Hands to Larger Service mini-grants, pay for printing and postage of *The Torch*, provide website maintenance, pay conference/meeting fees and for other purposes that, from time to time, our Board of Directors finds necessary to fund throughout the year. Fortunately, even with our limited revenue streams, we are still able to champion West Virginia 4-H. Your continued support will allow us to continue communicating with you on a regular basis and provide opportunities for 4-Hers all across West Virginia.

Below, please find our latest financial statement. Thank you for supporting Should you have any questions or would like to make a donation, please contact me at Jordan.pruett91@gmail.com.



West Virginia 4-H All Stars Treasurer's Report May 20, 2022



<u>Accounts</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
FIRST COMMUNITY CHECKING	\$2,671.56	\$10,695.07	\$25,486.10
WVU FOUNDATION SPEND	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$8,384.36
TOTAL	\$2,671.56	\$12,695.07	\$33,870.46

<u>First Community Bank Checking</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
GENERAL	\$2,421.56	\$4,345.07	\$25,236.10
LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$250.00	\$6,350.00 <small>Life Dues deposited into Foundation Acct.</small>	\$250.00
TOTAL	\$2,671.56	\$10,695.07	\$25,486.10

<u>General Categories</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>
All Star Pins	\$185.00	
Concecration		\$166.82
Conference		
Donations	\$886.13	
Fundraisers	\$1,350.43	
Grants		\$600.00
IRS		
Meetings		\$236.44
Postage		\$18.86
The Torch		\$3,322.95
Website		
Miscellaneous		
TOTAL	\$2,421.56	\$4,345.07

Submitted by:


Jordan Pruett

History Repeating Itself

Brent Clark

Director, 4-H Youth Development, WVU Extension Service

Many of you are familiar with the book “A Touch of Charisma” which is a history of the 4-H program in West Virginia written by former Chief of the West Virginia 4-H All Stars – Guy H. Stewart. His book shares a variety of important events from the early 1900s through the 1960s which helped guide and build 4-H in our state. As I have reflected over the past two years, a chapter from the book entitled “Readjustment” was of particular interest to me. This chapter specifically focuses on the 4-H program in West Virginia in the years following World War II. Throughout the history of our 4-H program, WWII was the only time in our state, where a majority of camps were canceled due to a worldwide state of affairs –until the spring of 2020. While comparing COVID and WWII may be like comparing apples and oranges, it is important to realize that both events had an enormous impact on our world and, in particular, on our 4-H program.

Much like losing the experience of most residential camps over the past two years due to the pandemic, most 4-H camps across West Virginia were also on hold during the height of WWII. Extension professionals, volunteers, and young adults helped support the wartime efforts both near and far. As WWII concluded and 4-H was able to resume in a more normal manner, the leadership of our 4-H program realized it would need be a time of rebuilding and change. The world had changed, along with the young people who benefitted from 4-H, and the adults who helped support it. When state 4-H camps were able to resume after the war, an increased emphasis was placed on older youth and young adults. This focus is what helped shape what we know of today as Older Member’s Conference. At the same time, the state 4-H boys and girls camps (modern day Alpha camps), also went through a period of change and readjustment to best meet the needs of young people. Very appropriately in their first camp after WWII, the state 4-H boys camp theme was “The Road Ahead.” The Extension professionals, volunteers, supporters and youth of that time all realized that the war had a great impact, and that they needed to change their 4-H program in order to move forward.

If you are a believer in history repeating itself, we are again on the dawn of another great readjustment with 4-H. While the core principles of positive youth development within 4-H have proven the test of time, we are at another point where we must evolve, change, and grow to best meet the needs of our young people. This is not a new concept as you will see throughout “A Touch of Charisma” and in the decades after, change and evolution are what ensured 4-H remained relevant. The world is a rapidly evolving place, and we must stand up to the challenge to make sure our

4-H program adjusts to those changes. As we move out of the pandemic, our program will continue to look different as we engage youth in all that 4-H has to offer. You will see new ways of offering traditional programs, and you will also see new ideas come to life. As 4-H All Stars, it is our responsibility to support the changes that will ensure we remain relevant for decades to come. We must share our time, our talents, our contributions, and our support as we continue to be guided by those who have come before, and open to that which is yet to come...

SCOUT REPORT

Region 1 – Steven Huyett

The first Mason Dixon 4-H Camp was a great success. This new camp, comprising of Marshall and Wetzel Counties, offered an exciting new opportunity for campers from both counties to build lasting friendships. While camp has not occurred since 2019, it didn’t take long for these campers to blend together over numerous activities, outdoor games and learning important life skills that only 4-H camp can offer.

To donate: scan the QR code or
detach and mail this form to:
Jordan Pruett, 334 Buckeye Hollow Road,
Princeton, WV 24739

Name: _____

Phone: _____


Address: _____

Where would you like your donation to go?
(circle)

Amount Enclosing: _____

General Use | Awards and Recognition | Camp Scholarships | Community Service Grants | Consecration Costs

Fundraising Efforts | Life Membership Foundation Fund | Postage Costs
“The Torch” Costs | Website Costs





Hands To Larger Service

WOOD COUNTY

Wood County has a new GaGa Pit thanks in part to the WV 4-H All Stars Mini-Grant program. A game loved by kids of all ages and sizes, GaGa is similar to traditional Dodgeball and is played in a GaGa “pit.” The game combines dodging, striking, running, and jumping, with the objective of being the last person standing. Players hit the ball at each other with their hands and are eliminated if the ball strikes them on or below the knee. This game is very popular at 4-H camps.



MCDOWELL COUNTY

PANTHER CAMP GARDEN BEAUTIFICATION

4-H Teen Leaders and campers in McDowell County recently came together to spruce up the entrance to their camp. In June, campers decided to take the lead and clean



up the overgrown and messy flowerbed around the entrance sign to camp. By removing the old plants, reworking the flowerbed with new potting soil and replanting flowers, these diligent 4-Hers were successful in making the area enjoyable for all who visit the camp, playground and park.



PUTNAM COUNTY

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE FLOATING DOCK

Thanks to the leadership of 4-H member Nicholas McWhorter, Putnam County has a new handicap accessible floating dock on the lake at Camp Appalachia. With his team of 17 volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 17, Nicholas not only finished his 4-H service project, but also his Eagle Scout project while providing everyone with a safe and easier way to fish and be on the lake. Through this collaborative effort, physically challenged individuals can now enjoy the lake just as much as anyone else.



Welcome New All Stars!

One Saturday, May 14th, All Stars from both the Executive Committee and representing five counties, met at Jackson’s Mill to select the All Star Class of 2022. After careful review of all applications submitted, 94 new All Stars were accepted into the organization. All new members have received notification by Chief Schoonover and have been invited to participate in the upcoming Consecration and Induction Ceremony during either state camps or during the conference this Fall. Below are new All Stars initiated during state camps this Summer.



OMC ALL STARS

Front Row (L to R): Faith Reed, Autumn Baker (Both Class of 2020). Middle Row (L to R): Maddie Cox, Zach Mowery, Elora Mowery. Back Row (L to R): Aftyn Wilson, Chase Smith (Class of 2020) Levi Hunt, Quitin Utterback



ALPHA I ALL STARS

Front Row (L to R): William Barb, Brady Chrisman, Taylor Davis, Dalton Dearth, Molly Mazza, Katie Miltenberger, Virginia Prunty, Julie Snyder, Alexa Vanmeter, Alex Woodrum and Mike Sheridan.



ALPHA II ALL STARS

First row (L to R): Brodi McCoy, Annalynn McCreary, Julia Parsons, Katie Daley, Sandra Murriner, Emily Heighton. Back Row (L to R): Zane Tanner, Michael McCauley, Creed Ammons, Dillion Johnson



WEST VIRGINIA 4-H ALL STARS

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Elizabeth, WV 26143

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VA All Stars Celebrate 100 Years!

Abebrum Schoonover, Chief

Recently, a delegation from West Virginia’s Alpha Chapter traveled to Blacksburg, VA to attend the Virginia 4-H All Stars 100th Anniversary celebration. While much fun was had listening to keynote speakers, enjoying entertainment, and singing songs by a campfire, these All Stars stayed true to the organization’s motto: Service.

Several projects were completed including, delivering non-perishable food and toiletries to the AGAPE Center of the New River Valley. While there, twelve members helped prepare bags for the Monday’s distribution, pulled weeds, and organized the pantry. In fact, AGAPE was very appreciative of the service and shared that they were down on donations and volunteer help. After hearing this, one of the All Stars conveyed this information to her church and that group responded with a \$1000 donation for food and volunteers to help the center one day a month. Also, a 100th All Star Birthday Party was held at the English Meadows Senior Living Community, 20 stuffed animals were delivered to the memory care unit, 30 handwritten cards were also distributed from All Stars and six floral arrangements were made from the extra table decoration flowers. In addition, All Stars donated blood at the New River Valley Blood Donation Center and collected items for the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center.

Near or far, All Stars make an impact on their communities and attending the celebration felt like coming home to West Virginia. Thank you to the VA All Stars for a beautiful celebration and keeping true to our motto. Below is a picture of our WV All Stars Delegation.



L to R: Current Chief Abe Schoonover, Immediate Past Chief KJ Keys, Joan Toler (Chief: 2014-2016), Marilyn Dague (Chief: 2002-2004), Heather Toler and Current 2nd Lessor Chief Chad Proudfoot.

THE TORCH

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

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