FALL 2025 EDITION

NC 4-H HONOR CLUB NEWSLETTER

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HEARTLINE

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HISTORIAN'S REPORT:

It is hard to believe we are 10 months into 2025 already! 4-H has been booming this year and Honor Club is no different. This spring we held our annual Honor Club Conference on May 30-June 1st. This year we enjoyed spending time with old friends, building new friendships, and reconnecting with those who hadn't attended Honor Club Conference in years. We voted on inductees for the 2025 year. We are excited to share that we had a significant increase from 34 attendees last year to 50 honor club members as well as 5 guests at the conference this year! We look forward to next year and hope to see the number continuing to grow. At conference we focused on several community service projects including cataloging historical 4-H artifacts, creating cards for 4-H camp staff and campers, and working to clean up the camp grounds. Throughout the weekend members had the opportunity to assist in helping revamp the 4-H Honor Club tapping video as well as to create some additional promotional videos.

4-H Congress 2025 was held in Raleigh North Carolina in July. At the 4-H Honor Club tapping ceremony we had the immense privilege to welcome 19 new members into North Carolina 4-H Honor Club as well as 2 honorary members. Honor Club members also helped throughout the week by leading workshops, participating in service projects, preparing the clover for the candle lighting ceremony, serving on Congress committees, and being an influential part in State Officer elections.

In September, Honor Club members participated in a weekend of service at Millstone 4-H Camp revitalizing the Ellis House; putting our Honor Club motto to action!

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NEW INDUCTEES

This year, North Carolina Honor Club inducted 19 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!

Kiya Kernodle - Alamance
Noah Snyder - Alamance
Elizabeth Peluso - Craven
Slade Sloan - Dare
Madilyn Hendrik - Davidson
Emma Britt - Edgecombe
Logan Sundbom - Edgecombe
Holly Thornburg - Franklin
Kendal Thornburg - Franklin
Jillian Haywood - Montgomery
Page Strickland - Nash
Lexi Gilkey - Onslow
Cedric Villalba Berdugo - Onslow
Ashlyn Coxe - Pitt
Nathan Croyle - Rowan
Elizabeth Gann - Surry
Aubrey Mekus - Union
Payton Williams - Wayne
Logan Ballance - Wilson
Misty Blue Terry - North Carolina A&T State University
Susan Kelly - 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

Emmett LaHay, Nash, 2015

President

Dorothy Shutt, Guilford, 1975

President-Elect

Laura Pennell, Cabarrus, 1987

Vice President

Alex Evans, Robeson, 2017

Secretary

Anna Marie Morra, Cleveland, 2012

Treasurer

Rebecca Dietrich, Wake, 2013

Historian

Hannah Vagnozzi, Gaston, 2022

Communications Coordinator

Jonie Stumbo, Cleveland, 2014

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

South Central

Leah Joyner, Stanly, 2013

Nikki Tuttle, Union, 2019

West

Jacob Hanlon, Burke, 2023

Open position

North Central

Kenyon Settle, Rockingham, 2021

Lauren Hoesli, Orange, 2024

Southeast

Elizabeth Merrill, Wayne, 2009

Chloe Allen, Johnston, 2019

Northeast

Endia Lewis, Iredell, 1995

Marisa Suedbeck, Pitt, 2019

Interested in serving as a West district director?
Reach out to Emmet LaHay at: emmett.1234@live.com for more information.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dorothy Shutt, Guilford, 1975
President of NC 4-H Honor Club

Greetings from the center of North Carolina! I am pleased to be serving as your president for the coming year. A lot has been done over the past few years to revive and strengthen Honor Club here in North Carolina. My goal is to continue making the Best Better as we build our existing and grow new relationships. It is often helpful in making future plans to examine the past, to visit our beginnings and why we are here.

So… what is Honor Club? Why do we have a North Carolina 4-H Honor Club? What is our purpose as Honor Club members?

From our beginning we have been tasked with and carried out our motto of Service. Dr. Jim Clark tells us in his 1984 book, *Clover All Over*, that in 1931 NC State 4-H Leader L.R. Harrill began organizing the NC 4-H Honor Club to develop leadership for Service to others. The concept of Honor Club developed from a need to plan and present "Short Course," now known as our beloved NC 4-H Congress.

That year, his associate, Elizabeth Cornelius, had just been diagnosed with tuberculosis and was unable to continue her work with NC 4-H. Of course, with the help of those first Honor Club members, the Short Course of 1931 was successful. Another notable first from the 1931 Short Course was the evening campfire and officer installation. This ceremony involved 4-Hers forming a colossal four-leaf clover with an 'H' in the center of each leaf, 4-Hers then passed the light from their candle to their neighbor, eventually lighting all of the candles for over 700 4-Hers. The 4-Hers sang 'Follow the Gleam' as they walked out of the stadium. Thus began our Candlelighting Ceremony on the last night of 4-H Congress.

For some of us, this ceremony and the tapping ceremony are recent memories. For others of us, much older memories. But for all of us, this was an important step in our 4-H career. We are able to 'give back' to an organization that helped form our character, taught us valuable lessons, and helped us create lifelong friendships.

So, how can we give back in this coming year? How can we live up to that motto of "Service"?
Here are some thoughts:

- **Reach out to your local 4-H Agent and offer to help! Special projects, judging, teaching, chaperoning, fundraising, etc.**
- **Reach out to your family and friends who are NC 4-H Honor Club members – help them reconnect with 4-H and Honor Club!**
- **Encourage them to update their information in the Member Directory on our website!**
- **Connect with us on Facebook and Instagram and keep an eye out for volunteering opportunities!**
- **Join us on January 24, 2026, for our annual Wake Up, Meet Up Zoom meeting to connect with Honor Club and learn more about NC 4-H!**
- **Join us at Millstone 4-H Camp June 5-7, 2026, for NC 4-H Honor Club Conference!**
- **Lead or participate in local community Service projects! Clean a river, build a ramp, help with a food pantry, etc.**

How will you live up to our motto of Service? Let us know!

DATES & THINGS YOU MIGHT NEED TO KNOW

SAVE THE DATE! Honor Club Conference in 2026

June 5th-7th

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! Stay tuned for more information!

Wake Up, Meet Up Winter Zoom

JOIN US!

We'll be having our annual "Wake Up, Meet Up" Honor Club meeting next year on January 24th, 2026, 10 AM E.T.
A Zoom link will be sent out closer to the event date. Stay tuned for more information!

(Upcoming events continued on page 6)

NATIONAL 4-H WEEK
OCTOBER 5-11

NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

OCT. 5 – OCT. 11, 2025

Beyond Ready

OCT. 5 (SUNDAY)
KICKOFF
START NATIONAL 4-H WEEK BY SHARING YOUR 4-H JOURNEY AND FAVORITE MEMORIES.

OCT. 6 (MONDAY)
GO GREEN
SHOW YOUR NC 4-H PRIDE BY WEARING GREEN AND CELEBRATING WITH YOUR 4-H COMMUNITY.

OCT. 7 (TUESDAY)
GET CREATIVE
HIGHLIGHT YOUR TALENTS WITH AN ARTISTIC PROJECT, CRAFT, OR HANDS-ON ACTIVITY.

OCT. 8 (WEDNESDAY)
GET HEALTHY
FOCUS ON YOUR WELL-BEING WITH HEALTHY HABITS, FITNESS, OR NUTRITIOUS EATING.

OCT. 9 (THURSDAY)
4-H FOR GOOD
SHARE HOW YOU OR YOUR CLUB MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

OCT. 10 (FRIDAY)
GROW YOUR FUTURE
SHOW HOW 4-H IS HELPING YOU LEARN, LEAD, AND PREPARE FOR WHAT'S AHEAD.

OCT. 11 (SATURDAY)
CELEBRATE
CELEBRATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, PROJECTS, AND THE 4-H COMMUNITY WITH PHOTOS AND STORIES.

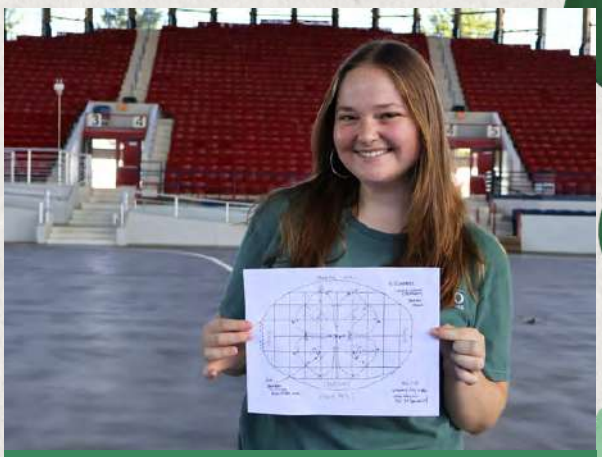
NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

N.C. A&T STATE UNIVERSITY

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

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 7th Annual Pickin' in the Pines Bluegrass and BBQ Benefit Concert on Oct 18, 2025.

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 NC State Fair

Each year, 4-H members from across North Carolina bring their creativity, skills, and hard work to the State Fair. In the Education Building, you'll find an impressive display of 4-H talent – from arts and crafts to photography, culinary creations, and even entomology exhibits. Counties from all will also showcase their local programs in the County Exhibit competition and decorate festive hay bales located outside the Kerr Scott Building in the grassy area by the trees.
Be sure to visit the Graham and Expo Buildings, where enthusiastic 4-H'ers proudly present their livestock projects. Throughout the week, 4-H youth will be in the Education Building sharing their projects and personal 4-H experiences with visitors. Stop by to see their creativity in action and discover how 4-H helps young people become *Beyond Ready* for the future!

2026 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 30th-February 1st 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.

Repainting the Ellis House

Dorothy Shutt

On the weekend of September 5 – 7, 2025 several NC 4-H Honor Club members, family, and friends lived out our motto of Service. These members had two tasks – to paint the outside of the Ellis House and to work through artifacts donated to the NC 4-H History and Learning Center. Millstone 4-H Camp provided lodging and meals for the group. On Friday and Saturday, the group prepared the Ellis House by taping over windows, doors, and the brick foundation. Then the painting began. Members painted the facia boards and other parts of the house with paintbrushes. When all of this was done, Joe Freeman used the camp's spray painter to paint the rest of the house. Several rotten boards were replaced. On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Adrian Gaskins, Honor Club members, and friends went through twenty boxes of donated artifacts and began cataloging them.

(Continued on page 8)

SERVICE WITH HONOR CLUB

A THANK YOU FROM THE ELLIS HOUSE DONOR

Dear N.C. 4-H Honor Club Members,

Once again North Carolina 4-H'ers utilized their heads, hearts, and hands to contribute to the health of their community. This time it was to contribute to the health of an aging but stalwart farmhouse that houses the North Carolina 4-H History Museum. That farmhouse, also known as the Ellis house and the House that 4-H Peanuts Built, sits on Camp Millstone property, the vanguard of the North Carolina 4-H History and Learning Center complex.

On September 5th through September 7th, a dedicated and determined group of you came to Camp Millstone and spent three days, sunup to sundown, repairing some of the external wood siding of the farmhouse and repainting the farmhouse exterior. You repaired the siding in a manner to prevent future damage from inclement weather and repainted the farmhouse with loving care and a keen eye for detail. I was at Camp Millstone on September 19th, and I walked slowly around the museum, marveling at the Honor Club members' work.

A heartfelt thank you to all who participated in this endeavor. You gave generously of your time, your expertise, and your effort. On an annual basis approximately a thousand Richmond County schoolchildren tour this N.C. 4-H History Museum, learning not only about science, math, U.S. and N.C. history, but also about the opportunities afforded through the 4-H youth development program. Because of your hard work, the Museum will welcome them with a handsome fresh face! Many thanks!

With gratitude,

Sharon Dawn Ellis
Donor of the Ellis House

SCRAPBOOK!

Just a few pics from this year...

CLOVER CONNECTIONS

Maintaining our connections through friendship

4-H Youth in Action

I applied for 4-H Youth In Action and was selected as a finalist! I am so honored to been chosen. I was the only North Carolina person to become a finalist! My story is on the National 4-H website now! I would love to help spread the news about this amazing opportunity to others!

https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/winners-and-finalists/

Kiya Kernodle, Alamance, 2025

Teacher of the Year

I was named 2025 Florida Career and Technical Education Rookie Teacher of the Year!

Rachel Brown, Stokes, 2016

CLOVER CONNECTIONS

Maintaining our connections through friendship

Graduations

I'm in photos with my parents, Angela & Henry Ray. My Mom is an Adult Volunteer leader, and still active . She was the County Reporter, and was South Central District Secretary. She won the 2021 SC Adult Volunteer Award.

Alizdair Ray, Cumberland, 2020

I graduated with my masters degree in Special Education with a concentration in Severe/Profound Disabilities from Western Carolina May 2025!

Jonie Stumbo, Cleveland 2014

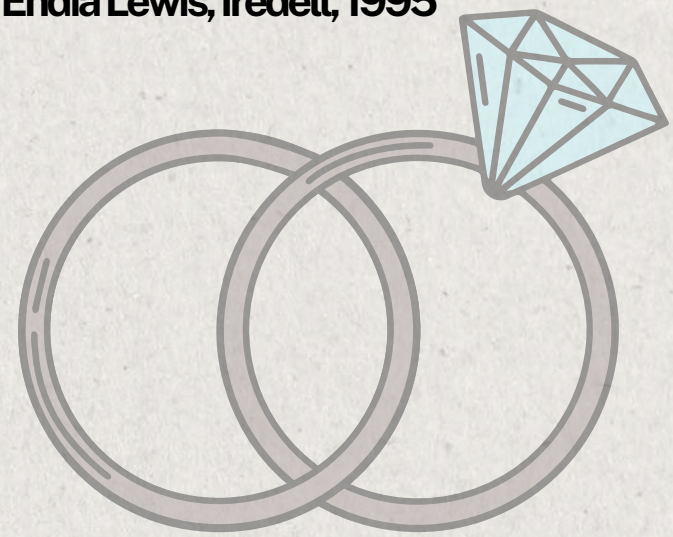
CLOVER CONNECTIONS

Maintaining our connections through friendship

Wedding Bells

I said YES!!!

Endia Lewis, Iredell, 1995



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!

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 Jonie Stumbo, Honor Club Communications Coordinator, at stumbo.jonie@gmail.com or Hannah Vagnozzi, Honor Club Historian at littlehvswag46@gmail.com Join our member group on Facebook! https://www.facebook.com/groups/18782542975/ Visit our website at www.nc4hhonorclub.org Join our Instagram at: nc4hhonorclub