

SPRING 2026 EDITION

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NC 4-H HONOR CLUB NEWSLETTER



# HEARTLINE



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## Report: Honor Club Conference 2025

*Written By: Historian Jonie Stumbo*

The 2025 Honor Club Conference was one for the books. We had **50 members and 5 guests** in attendance throughout the weekend. Members had the privilege to vote in new Honor Club members who would be inducted at the 2025 NC State 4-H Congress.

The 2025 Honor Club Conference was a great mix of business and fellowship all tied up with a big bow of service! We went into 2025's conference wanting to have a stronger focus on service, since "Service" is the Honor Club motto--and I am pleased to share--we were able to focus on multiple projects, including: cleaning up the camp's grounds, creating thank you cards for donors, cards of encouragement for campers and staff, and IDing artifacts. Not only were we able to have a strong focus on service throughout the weekend, but we were also able to spend quality time getting to know other 4-Hers and alumni and reconnect with old friends. I personally loved the late-night card games and laughing till my lungs hurt remembering 4-H events from my past.

A special thank you to all the members who assisted us in updating our Honor Club videos during conference!

As always, the 2025 Honor Club Conference was a massive hit full of fellowship, food, fun, and, most importantly, SERVICE. We hope to see even more in attendance at the **2026 Honor Club Conference coming up on June 5-7th at Millstone 4-H Camp. Be on the lookout for registration information coming to your inbox and our social media platforms soon!**

# A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In looking back at the last few years of 'President's Notes' in the Heartline, one thing stood out. Service. I think every president encouraged and reminded us of our motto – Service. How are we living up to that motto? What are we doing? At our last 'Wake Up, Meet Up' meeting in January, several members shared ways they had engaged in Service. Some of the ideas were helping with county 4-H activities – teaching 4-Hers, judging presentations and other competitions, helping with awards ceremonies, volunteering to help with AIRE and 4-H Scholarships, working to preserve our 4-H History, presentations at Volunteer Leaders Conference, and helping with various non-profit activities. Over the past year Dr. Jim Clark has talked about a lack of documentation of 4-H history since 2009. During our January 'Wake Up, Meet Up', Dr. Clark spoke of a need to capture recent 4-H history. He also talked about opportunities for Honor Club members to get involved with meeting this need. Service. How can you help?

- Capture someone's 4-H story – on video or in writing.
- Be sure that artifacts are not thrown out – 'when in doubt, don't throw it out'
- Encourage others to get involved in documenting our NC 4-H History
- Visit the 4-H Museum at Millstone – contact Keith Russell at Millstone 4-H Camp to schedule, contact Adrian Gaskins to arrange a guided tour
- Help identify and/or digitize photos
- Digital scrapbooks

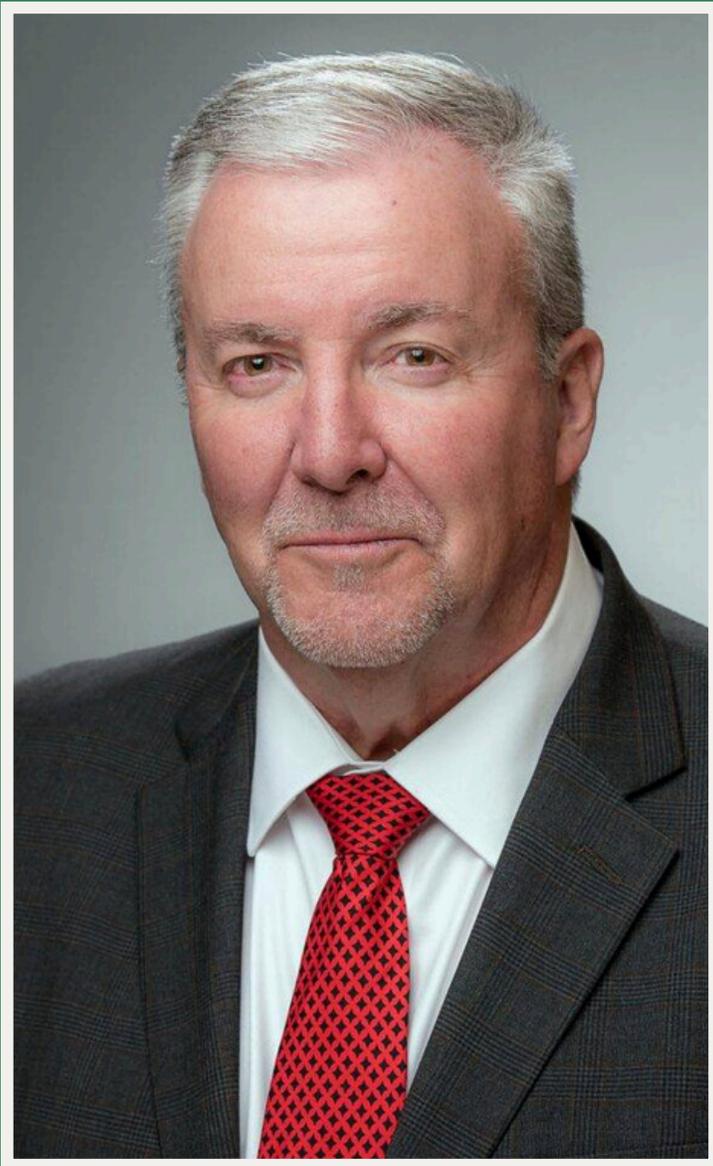
For more information about the History and Learning Center, contact Adrian Gaskins, (Craven County, 1974), the Curator for the NC 4-H History and Learning Center - [adrian\\_gaskins@ncsu.edu](mailto:adrian_gaskins@ncsu.edu)

We can't wait to see you at this year's Honor Club Conference, June 5-7, 2026 and hear all about your Service!



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

# Longtime 4-H Leader Mike Yoder Retiring After 30 Years at NC State



**Following three decades of service at NC State, including 11 years leading NC State Extension's 4-H program, Yoder retired on March 1st.**

Under Mike Yoder's leadership, North Carolina 4-H provided impactful programs for over 250,000 youth across the state each year in areas ranging from agriculture to artificial intelligence.

But as Yoder prepared to retire after 30 years at NC State, including the past 11 as NC State Extension associate director and state program leader for 4-H, he is quick to deflect any accolades.

**"Our Extension agents are the backbone of 4-H," he said. "They deserve all the credit because they work exceedingly hard, putting in long hours, a lot of nights and a lot of weekends to make that happen. They deserve all the credit. Our specialists and our agents do an outstanding job of putting together programs that develop life skills, and that's really what 4-H is all about."**

We wish him all the best and are extremely grateful of his integral part in our 4-H program.

**Shannon McCollum will serve as interim 4-H state program leader.** A lifelong 4-H'er, she began her career as an Extension 4-H agent in Halifax County in 1990 and joined the state 4-H team in 1996. With more than three decades of experience in youth development, McCollum brings deep institutional knowledge and a strong commitment to the 4-H mission as she steps into the role.

[To read the full article, click here.](#)

**Written By: Simon Gonzalez**

# VOLUNTEER LEADERS CONFERENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Congratulations to all of our Volunteer Leaders Conference  
Award Recipients!**



**Melissa Walls**  
Caswell County  
District Individual  
Volunteer Recognition



**Kelli Sigmon**  
Catawba County  
District Individual  
Volunteer Recognition



**Earlean Rivers**  
Duplin County  
District Individual  
Volunteer Recognition



**Phan Morrow**  
Pender County  
District Individual  
Volunteer Recognition



**Calisa Hughes**  
Haywood County  
District Individual  
Volunteer Recognition



**Dina Newcomb**  
Wayne County  
Achievement Hall in  
4-H Leadership  
Inductee

Not pictured: Andrea Sowle, Cabarrus County  
Lauren Roelofs, Johnston County

# SAVE THE DATE!



## Honor Club Conference in 2026

June 5-7

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

Want to reconnect with fellow 4-H'ers? Join our annual Honor Club Conference this spring!

Written By: Laura Pennell

Registration available on April 1<sup>st</sup>! Click the link below:

<https://nc4hhonorclub.org/conference/>

Time is approaching for us to gather for Honor Club Conference on June 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> at Millstone 4-H Camp. This is a wonderful time to:

- Reconnect with old friends and meet new ones.
- Learn more about what is currently happening in North Carolina 4-H.
- Learn about what is happening in NC 4-H Honor Club including voting on new members.
- Participate in various service projects on Saturday and Sunday.
- Enjoy camp with recreational activities, waterfront activities, a cookout, nature, and a wide front porch with rocking chairs.

Guests are welcome at Conference. We will have self-guided activities available during the Business Meeting for non-Honor Club members. Guests will only pay for meals and lodging.

There are several options available for conference. A registration link will be available soon, including early bird discounts. I hope to see you all!

# ON THE DOCK OF THE BAY 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



**You're Invited! Please join us for the 25th anniversary celebration and fundraiser - On the Dock of the Bay - for the Eastern 4-H Center on Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 5:30 to 10:30 pm.**

**[Purchase tickets here](#)**

*(Continued on page 7)*



Celebrating **25** Years  
EASTERN 4-H CENTER

## ON THE DOCK OF THE BAY

You're Invited!

**Kentucky Derby & Champagne**  
Join us for our 25th Anniversary Celebration

# May 2

5:30 PM -  
2026 10:30 PM

 | **NC STATE**  
EXTENSION

Eastern 4-H Center  
100 N. Clover Way,  
Columbia, NC 27925

# ON THE DOCK OF THE BAY 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Dear Friends,

We are thrilled to announce the return of the On the Dock of the Bay celebration and fundraiser for the Eastern 4-H Center, taking place on Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 5:30 pm to 10:30 pm. This year's event holds special significance as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Eastern 4-H Center!

Since opening its doors in 2001, the Center has touched the lives of countless North Carolinians through exceptional programs, transformative experiences, and impactful community partnerships. As we honor this milestone, we invite you to join us in continuing this legacy — celebrating the past 25 years while helping ensure the next 25 are just as meaningful.

This year's event will be one to remember, featuring a "Racing into the Roaring '20s" theme — complete with cherished traditions like our silent auction, sunset champagne toast, delicious food, live music from North Tower, dancing, and broadcast of the Kentucky Derby. We're also introducing exciting new elements to commemorate our 25th anniversary, including a signature drink and dessert, as well as the opportunity to relive 25 years of laughter, friendship, and community through a special slideshow of moments that shaped our story.

Please mark your calendars and plan to celebrate with us as we look forward to another 25 years of inspiring North Carolina's youth. If you have any questions about sponsorship opportunities or event details, please contact Retreats and Rentals Director Hunter Rose at [herose2@ncsu.edu](mailto:herose2@ncsu.edu) or 252-797-4800. Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment to the Eastern 4-H Center. We look forward to celebrating with you on the banks of beautiful Bulls Bay!

With gratitude,  
The Eastern 4-H Center team



# **PRESERVING NC 4-H HISTORY**

***Written By: Adrian Gaskins***

For 26 years, the past and current members of the NC 4-H History and Learning Center (HLC) committee have been working to preserve our state's 4-H history. And on February 18, the National 4-H History Preservation Group recognized North Carolina's work as exemplary and invited the NC committee members to share the HLC story with 4-H history teams from other states.

Now, the NC HLC committee is embracing the mantra of the National History Preservation team: "If in doubt, DON'T throw it out."

Honor Club members can help with 4-H history preservation. For example, before tossing that old 4-H artifact, describe it to the HLC and attach a pic here:

**<https://www.nc4hmuseum.org/support/>**

Your piece of history might become part of the state 4-H museum collection!

What's more, the effort to preserve 4-H history isn't just a national- or state-level activity. Local 4-H groups and county 4-H programs also are being encouraged to record their 4-H stories and to preserve appropriate documents, photographs, etc. Honor Club members can serve 4-H by volunteering in a variety of roles. Watch for more info in the coming weeks!

# UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Join us in shaping the future of young leaders by volunteering as a 4-H judge!

We're seeking dedicated volunteers, Honor Club members, and staff to evaluate 4-H records, presentations, resumes, essays, and interviews. Your expertise and encouragement help youth build confidence, develop life skills, and achieve their goals. Whether you're a seasoned professional or simply passionate about youth development, your time and insights make a lasting impact. Sign up today and be a part of inspiring the next generation of leaders!

*Judges must be at least 21 years of age to participate.*

For more information, contact [shannon\\_mccollum@ncsu.edu](mailto:shannon_mccollum@ncsu.edu)

**Information, dates, and registration information continued on the next page.**

## UPCOMING FUNDRAISER OPPORTUNITIES

Save the Date for **NC State's Day of Giving on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026!**

**NORTH CAROLINA 4H**

# JUDGING OPPORTUNITIES



**2026**

**(VIRTUAL)**

## SCHOLARSHIP AND AIRE RESUMES

**FEB. 23 - MAR. 16**

(SCHOLARSHIP RESUME JUDGING WINDOW)

**MAY 25 - JUNE 25**

(AIRE RESUME JUDGING WINDOW)

## PROJECT RECORDS AND PORTFOLIOS

**APRIL 24-26**

(PROJECT RECORD JUDGING)

**APRIL 27-29**

(PORTFOLIO JUDGING)



## AIRE INTERVIEWS



**JULY 22**



**REGISTER:**

[go.ncsu.edu/4hjudgesneeded](https://go.ncsu.edu/4hjudgesneeded)



NC State University is an equal opportunity institution.

**NC STATE**

**EXTENSION**

# JUDGING/VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**2026**

## DINAH GORE 4-H HEALTHY FOOD CHALLENGE

**MAR. 7**

**East Region**  
(Nash Co.)

**MAR. 14**

**West Region**  
(Iredell Co.)

**MAY 16**

**State Competition**  
(N.C. State Fairgrounds)

### VOLUNTEER NEEDS



**EVENT HELPERS**  
**GROCERY**  
**STORE CLERKS**

**PRESENTATION JUDGES**  
**SETUP AND CLEANUP**  
**SUPPORT**

**FOOD JUDGES**  
**PHOTOGRAPHER**

### PRESENTATIONS

#### DISTRICT ACTIVITY DAYS

#### STATE FINALS

**JUNE 13**

**West**  
(A-B Tech)

**JUNE 17**

**South Central**  
(Stanly Co.)

**JUNE 18**

**Southeast**  
(University of Mount Olive)

**JULY 21**

(During 4-H Congress)

**JUNE 24**

**North Central**  
(Caswell Co.)

**JUNE 26**

**Northeast**  
(Edgecombe CC)

### VOLUNTEER NEEDS

**JUDGES    AWARD PROCESSING**



**REGISTER:**

[go.ncsu.edu/4hjudgetsneeded](https://go.ncsu.edu/4hjudgetsneeded)



**NC STATE**

**EXTENSION**

# CLOVER CONNECTIONS

Maintaining our connections through friendship



## 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!](#)

## Graduations

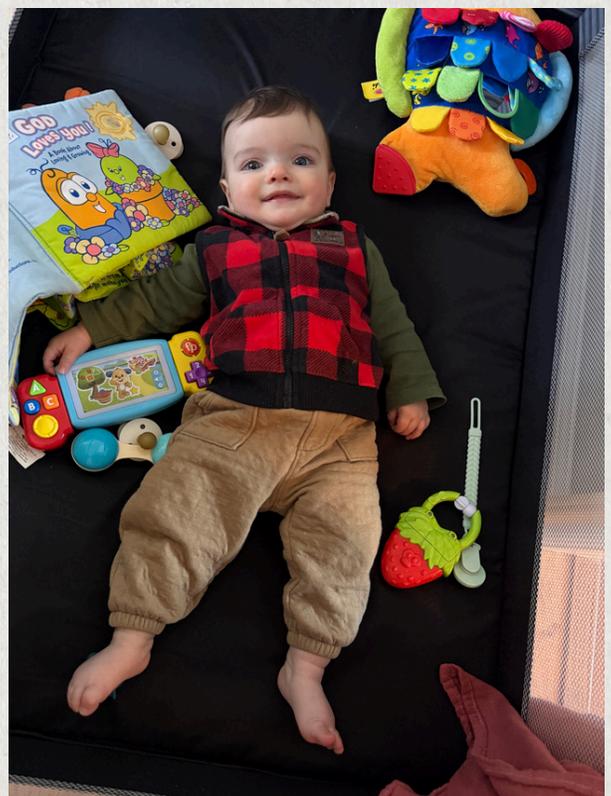
Holly Gillespie graduated from Pfeiffer University on December 11th, 2025 with a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy. During the ceremony, she was awarded the 'Service and Advocacy Award' for her commitment to volunteering in the community and representing the university and the profession at conferences. She plans to take the certification boards in early February 2026 and pursue a job working with the pediatric population or in stroke rehabilitation.

**Holly (Pennell) Gillespie, Cabarrus, 2016**

## Little Ones

Anthony and Joah welcomed baby boy Vinny Vagnozzi in July of this past year!

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



# 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
- Fundraiser 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 [littlehvs wag46@gmail.com](mailto:littlehvs wag46@gmail.com) Join our member group on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/18782542975/> Visit our website at [www.nc4hhonorclub.org](http://www.nc4hhonorclub.org)  
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