

# New Horizons



W. E. SKELTON 4-H EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER AT SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE

"America's Leading 4-H Center"



May 2010

2009-2010

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## Your Investment Has Never Been More Critical

*A Message From The President*

After a challenging winter, the W. E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center is preparing itself for a busy spring and summer. Even as the campus was blanketed with several inches of snow, the Board of Directors and Center staff was busy working on several exciting projects that will be completed prior to the start of 4-H Camping season on June 14th. This spring will be marked as a transformational time in the life of the Center as we complete several projects and embark on a new one that will change the experience of all who use the campus.

First and foremost, the indoor shooting sports complex has been on the master plan of the Center for 16 years. The first phase will be ready for operation this summer. This state of the art facility will be unique in the region as a shooting sports facility that is focused on youth development. It will play a key role in the future of the statewide 4-H shooting team by giving them a home to prepare for the national competition during the winter months when they typically are not able to practice due to lack of indoor facilities. It will also introduce the Center to a new group of individuals that have an interest in shooting sports of all types. On Wednesday, June 16, the Center will

welcome Governor Bob McDonnell as the featured speaker for the dedication of the new complex. This will be an exciting event held during the first week of 4-H camp and is a way to remind everyone that attends of the positive benefits of 4-H camping.



There are two other projects that are underway and will be ready by the start of camping season. The new flag plaza is now under construction. For 44 years, campers have been standing in the grassy area in front of the Smith Central Activities Building for flag ceremonies and assembly before meals. The construction of this plaza is the first upgrade of this area since the addition of the original flag poles in 1966. Due to the generosity of one of the Center's neighbors, Jerry and Ann Godsey, the Vespers area has been totally renovated with a new stage, new seating and steps, and the

addition of electrical service to the stage. It is truly a charming and reflective space overlooking the lake that will be a great addition to our campus. In addition to all this activity, construction has started at our main entrance on the new Welcome Center. When this is finished in spring 2011, the Center will have a true gateway into campus.

It is through donations of time and money that make the mission of the Center possible; thanks to the caring donors that are listed in this newsletter, who make possible our critical youth work and the ability to sustain and grow the infrastructure and programs of the Center.

There is nothing like seeing 4-H youth in action. On the back panel, you will find our summer camp schedule for 2010. We would be delighted to have you come out to see camp in session and experience the impact the 4-H Camping program has on the youth of this region.

This year will be an exciting time for everyone involved in the Center. As always, there is more to be done and your investment has never been more critical. With your help, the Skelton 4-H Center will continue to position itself for the future.



*Sincerely,  
John Rocovich, Jr.  
President*



*Garnett Smith*

### **Garnett Smith Receives Virginia Tech's Highest Honor**

*Mr. Smith is the recipient of the 2010 William H. Ruffner Medal in recognition of his loyal and enthusiastic support of the University. Smith has made a career and built a life on the principle of giving recognition and guidance to others. His volunteer service and philanthropy is far-reaching. His generosity to Virginia Tech has benefited the Skelton 4-H Center and numerous other areas of the University.*





## **W. E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake Donors 2009**

*We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the following donors  
on behalf of the youth, who are the ultimate benefactors.*

Anonymous	Paul H. and Evelyn Farrier	Mary Hille McCoy	Christopher K. Smith
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Sally Farrell	J. Douglas and Pat McAlister		

*Every effort has been made to ensure that this list is accurate and complete. Please let us know of any errors or omissions, and accept our apologies.*



A Message from Dr. J. Douglas McAlister  
 Director of Development & Strategic Partnerships



## Quality Programs Are The Key To Impacting The Lives Of Our Youth

Today's youth face challenges and opportunities very different from those of past generations. Supporting the healthy growth of our youth, as well as providing them with the education and experiences they need to mature into productive adults, is a growing concern in our communities and the commonwealth. Pressure to raise student achievements, the need for safe and enriching environments for youth, the focus on building the skills and competencies of young people, and an emphasis on preventing risky behaviors, are all fueling the demand for quality youth programs. For the past 43 years, the W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake has continued to enhance its program capacity and quality to meet and exceed these challenges.

I have found over my professional career that there are several successful keys to organizations that are having a "true" impact on the lives of others.



**Not much happens without a dream. For something great to happen, there must be a dream.**

*In 1965, Dr. W.E. Skelton had a dream for our Center and to assist youth.*



**Much more than a dream is required to bring it to reality. Hard work is needed.**

*A strong Board of Directors committed to the dream and a lot of HARD WORK has resulted in one of America's leading 4-H Centers.*



**Developing a passion for the vision of the lives of regional youth must become a reality.**

*Over 135,000 4-H youth and over 235,000 total adults and youth are the reality of the W.E. Skelton 4-H Education Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake.*



**You can make a difference in the lives of needy youth by working together for the collective good.**

*The center, on 120 acres with 22 or more buildings, annually offering programs that vary from robotics, to computer science, to outdoor skills such as swimming and canoeing, is a testament to the desire of many to support youth.*



**You have been gifted with the power to make a positive difference in the lives of many. The ability to live the vision of assisting youth and to establish a legacy of trust and hope for the next generations.**

*Your gift to the Skelton 4-H Center makes a difference. A direct, positive impact since 46.59% of every 4-H youth attending the Center receives private donor assistance such as your gift.*

By investing in the W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake, you are joining a compassionate, caring community across the region that has successfully come together to promote the positive development of our children and young adults. A community of leaders such as yourself that has been energized - - - empowered - - - and transformed beyond the proven strategies of the 4-H Center and research-based programs through years of implementation and evaluation.



**The real key is your personal investment in the youth of the future. Then and only then can the lock be opened to a brighter future.**



## Open Doors With a Gift That Gives

By Judith Davis, Office of Gift Planning,  
 University Development

You can help open doors to quality programs for youth with a gift that fits your personal goals and creates future support for the W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center.

**Make a gift that pays you income.** Life income gifts, such as charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts, are designed to create an income stream for retirement or other goals, and a gift for the Center when the plan ends, usually after your lifetime.

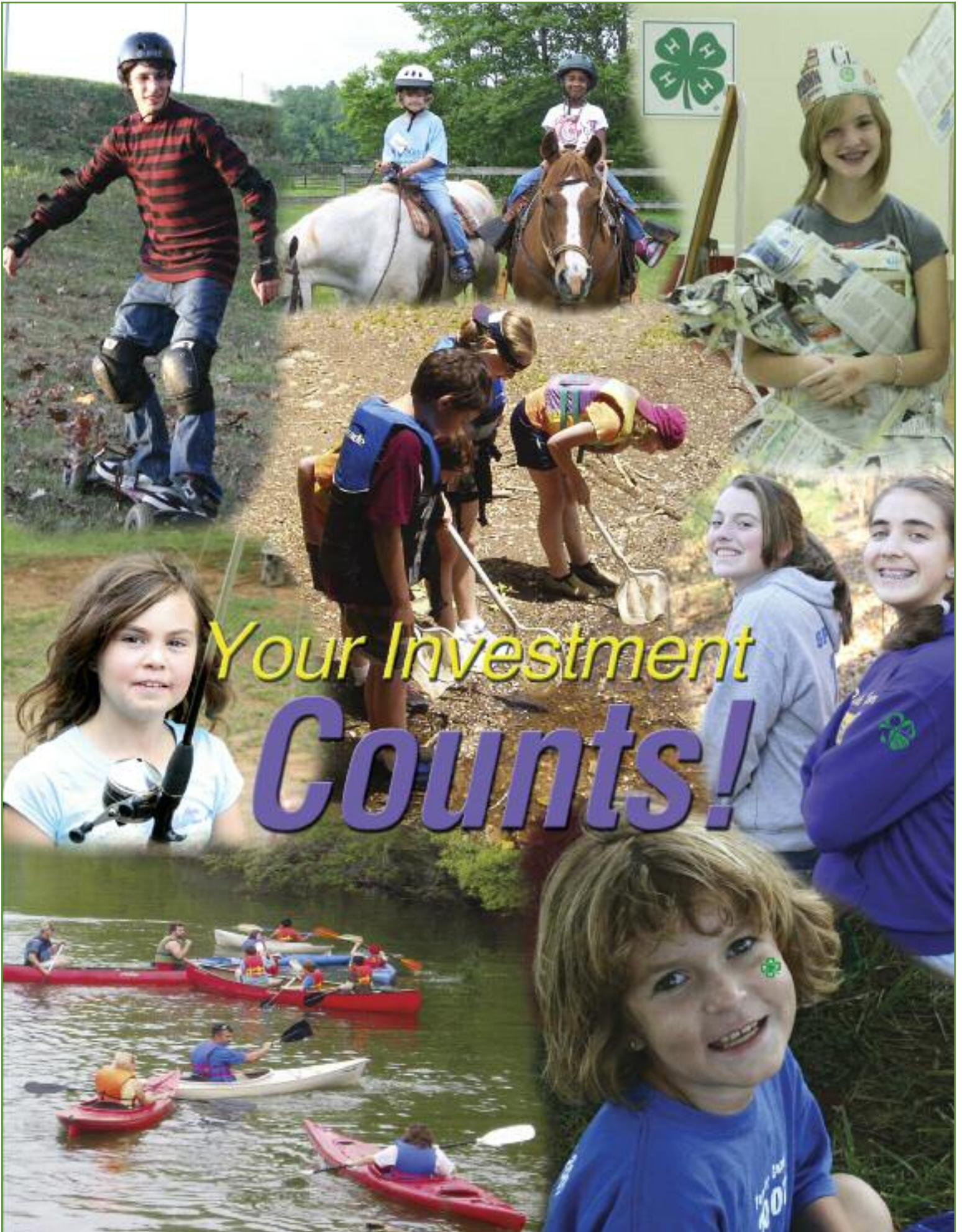
**Make a gift that provides for a loved one.** Life income gifts can also allow you to provide income for a surviving spouse, an aging parent, or other loved one.

**Make a gift without affecting your assets.** A bequest in your will or trust directs a gift to the Center after your lifetime. During your lifetime, you retain full control of your assets and can change your gift if you wish.

**Make a gift without changing your will.** Your signed beneficiary designation form establishes a future gift from the balance remaining in a retirement account after your lifetime. Your lifetime assets are not affected, and you can change your gift simply by signing a new form.

For sample bequest language and to learn more about these and other ways to support the W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center, contact Doug McAlister at 800/533-1144 or email [mcallist@vt.edu](mailto:mcallist@vt.edu).

You are encouraged to consult your attorney or other advisor when making any gift as part of your retirement, estate, or other financial planning.



Your Investment  
**Counts!**

# W. E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center 2010 Camping Programs Calendar

**June 14 - 18** . . . . .Floyd/Montgomery/Craig/Giles  
**June 21 - 25** . . . . .Patrick/Pulaski/Roanoke Co. Day Camp  
**June 25 - 27** . . . . .Chief's Challenge Camp/Family Cloverbud Camp  
**June 28 - July 2** Halifax/Danville/Pittsylvania/Bridges to Life  
**July 5 - 9** . . . . .Henry/Martinsville  
**July 9 - 11** . . . . .Ruritan National Youth Leadership Conference  
**July 12 - 16** . . . . .Botetourt/Augusta/Rockingham/MDA  
**July 19 - 23** . . . . .Roanoke  
**July 26 - 30** . . . . .Franklin/Bedford/4-H SET Camp  
**Aug. 2 - 6** . . . . .Alleghany/Bath/Highland/Rockbridge/AFJROTC  
**Aug. 6 - 8** . . . . .Carilion Family Camp  
**Aug. 9 - 11** . . . . .Hokie Camp Session 1  
**Aug. 12 - 14** . . . . .Hokie Camp Session 2  
**Aug. 16 - 18** . . . . .Hokie Camp Session 3  
**Aug. 18 - 21** . . . . .DARE Camp  
**Sept. 24 - 26** . . . . .4-H Hunter Education Camp  
**Nov. 5 - 7** . . . . .Fall Cloverbud Camp  
**Nov. 19 - 21** . . . . .Fall Teen Weekend



## 4-H Motto

I PLEDGE MY HEAD to clearer thinking,  
MY HEART to greater Loyalty  
MY HANDS to larger service, and  
MY HEALTH to better living, for my Club,  
my Community, my Country and my World.



## May 2010 New HORIZONS

W. E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center at  
Smith Mountain Lake

775 Hermitage Road, Wirtz, VA 24184

[www.skelton4hcenter.org](http://www.skelton4hcenter.org)

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