

HOKE COUNTY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2012

Citizens Awareness Month

Recently, Governor Beverly Perdue issued a Proclamation to all 100 counties in North Carolina proclaiming September as Citizens Awareness Month to promote voter registration in 2012.

As part of Governor Perdue's Proclamation for Voter Registration Awareness, citizens between the ages of sixteen and seventeen are allowed to pre-register to vote; and all citizens are encouraged to register and vote in the General Election. In accordance with the Citizens Awareness Project, the Hoke

County Board of Elections scheduled Voter Registration Drives at the local educational facilities in the county and at the annual Turkey Festival.

The Hoke County Board of Elections voter registration drives are being held at the Turkey Festival on Saturday, September 15, The Sandhills-Hoke Classes on Monday, September 17, 2012, The Hoke County High School campus on Tuesday, September 18th, Wednesday, September 19th, and Thursday, September 20th, and at the Sandhills Community College Rae-



ford Campus on Thursday September 20th, 2012.

Registration closes on Friday, October 12th for the 2012 November General Election.

Additional Election Information located on Pages 2 & 3

Teach Someone to Read and Change Their Life



Hoke Reading/Literacy Council will provide a Tutor Training class on **Saturday, September 29, 2012**, at the Literacy Council Office which is located at 125 W Elwood Ave, Raeford.

Class will begin at 9:00am and will end at 1:00pm.

There are a limited number of spaces available, therefore, registration is required.

To register, call 910-875-2145.

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Welcome!

Welcome to the Hoke County Newsletter. Inside you'll find information of what's going on inside Hoke County.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

Newsletter @hokecounty.org



NOTICE | 2012 General Election

A General Election will be held in Hoke County, North Carolina on Tuesday, November 6th, 2012 to elect the following offices:

- President and Vice President of the United States
- US Representatives in Congress for the 2nd and 7th Districts
- Governor and Lieutenant Governor
- Council of State
- NC State Senate (District 21)
- NC State House of Representatives (Districts 48 and 66)
- District Attorney (District 16A)
- County Commissioners (2 seats)
- Clerk of Superior Court
- Register of Deeds
- Supreme Court Associate Justice
- Court of Appeals (3 seats)
- District Court Judge (District 16A)
- Board of Education (2 seats)
- Soil and Water Conservation Supervisor

All voters registered with the Hoke County Board of Elections are eligible to vote in the General Election. Residents of the county who are not registered to vote must register by October 12, 2012 to be eligible to vote in this election. A person may register to vote at the Board of Elections office at 227 North Main Street in Raeford from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday until October 12, 2012 at 5:00 pm at which time the books will close for the purpose of the election. Those residents who failed to register by the deadline may register and vote (same day registration) during the one-stop voting until November 3, 2012.

Absentee Voting (by mail) will begin on Friday, September 7 and the deadline for applying by mail is 5:00 pm on Tuesday, October 30, 2012.

Absentee One-Stop Voting will begin on Thursday, October 18 and will end on Saturday, November 3, 2012. One-stop locations will be at the Board of Elections office at 227 North Main Street in Raeford, weekdays from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm; Saturday, October 27 from 8:00 until 1:00 pm; Sundays, October 21, and October 28, from 2:00 pm until 6:00 pm; Saturday, November 3rd from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm. An additional one-stop site will be at the Matthew Rouse Community Center at 373 Pittman Grove Church Road in Raeford weekdays from 2:00 pm until 8:00 pm; Saturday, October 27 from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm and Saturday, November 3rd from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm

The polls will be open from 6:30 am until 7:30 pm on Election Day at all polling places in Hoke County.

Gloria Barnes Hill, Chairman
Hoke County Board of Elections

Sample Ballot
Puppy Creek
 Congressional District #2

Sample Ballot Hoke County, North Carolina November 6, 2012		G009	
PURPOSE		VOTER	
BALLOT MARKING INSTRUCTIONS: a. Fill in the marking device provided to select ballot paper, complete all information on the ballot and mark candidate or selection of your choice on the ballot. b. Where indicated, you may vote in a candidate's party by filling in the oval and writing the name on the ballot line. c. If you are unable to mark your ballot, request a replacement ballot.			
PARTISAN OFFICES			
US House of Representatives District 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Wilkins Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Denise E. Elmer Republican <input type="checkbox"/> David Irving Republican		NC Secretary of State (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Elaine Marshall Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Ed Goodwin Republican NC Superintendent of Public Instruction (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Julie Atkinson Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> John Tedesco Republican	
RESIDENTIAL CONTEST The official President and Vice President of the United States is elected in a Straight Party vote. This contest may be voted on as follows:			
President and Vice President of the United States (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Barack Obama Joe Biden Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Mitt Romney Paul Ryan Republican <input type="checkbox"/> Gary Johnson James P. Gray Libertarian		NC Treasurer (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Janet Cowell Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Royal Republican	
STRAIGHT PARTY VOTING			
a. Under certain conditions, a Straight Party vote is available. All candidates of the party are voted for on one ballot line. For more information on this voting method, see the instructions on the back of the ballot. b. You may vote a Straight Party vote AND ALSO vote for candidates in a different party in any individual office. c. In any individual office, a Straight Party vote is available. All candidates of the party are voted for on one ballot line. For more information on this voting method, see the instructions on the back of the ballot. d. If you do not vote a Straight Party ballot, you may vote for any candidate in any individual office. e. A Straight Party vote does not include US President and Vice President, unaffiliated candidates, or special offices, unless otherwise indicated.		NC State Senate District 21 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Robert B. Clark III Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Dan Forest Republican	
Straight Party (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic <input type="checkbox"/> Republican <input type="checkbox"/> Libertarian		NC House of Representatives District 96 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Ken Goodman Democrat District Attorney District 96A (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Kristy McMillan Newton Democrat	
NC Lieutenant Governor (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Linda D. Coleman Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Dan Forest Republican		Board of County Commissioners (You may vote for THREE) <input type="checkbox"/> James A. Letch Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Robert A. (Bobby) Wright Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> John F. Harry Republican <input type="checkbox"/> Elida M. Thacker Republican	
NC Auditor (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Beth A. Wood Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Debra Goldman Republican		County Clerk of Superior Court Unexpired term ending 2014 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Evelyn M. McLeod Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Gene Shelton Republican	
NC Commissioner of Agriculture (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Walker Smith Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Trudier Republican		County Register of Deeds (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Onnie Dudley Democrat	
NC Commissioner of Insurance (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Wayne Goodwin Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Causey Republican		End of Straight Party Voting Continue voting next side →	
NC Commissioner of Labor (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> John C. Brooks Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Christie Berry Republican			

Sample Ballot Hoke County, North Carolina November 6, 2012		G001	
PURPOSE		VOTER	
NONPARTISAN OFFICES			
NC Supreme Court Associate Justice (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Sam J. Ervin IV <input type="checkbox"/> Paul Martin Newby			
NC Court of Appeals Judge (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Linda McGee <input type="checkbox"/> David S. Robinson			
NC Court of Appeals Judge (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Wanda Bryant <input type="checkbox"/> Marty McGee			
NC Court of Appeals Judge (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Dillon <input type="checkbox"/> Cressie Thigpen			
NC District Court Judge District 16A (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> John J. Horne, Jr.			
County Board of Education (You may vote for THREE) <input type="checkbox"/> Rosa (Nancy) McAlister-McRae <input type="checkbox"/> Roosevelt McPherson <input type="checkbox"/> Betty J. Perkins <input type="checkbox"/> Hank Richards			
Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Gary Hendrix			
End of Ballot			

Sample Ballot
Allendale
 Congressional District #7

Sample Ballot Hoke County, North Carolina November 6, 2012		G001	
PURPOSE		VOTER	
BALLOT MARKING INSTRUCTIONS: a. Fill in the marking device provided to select ballot paper, complete all information on the ballot and mark candidate or selection of your choice on the ballot. b. Where indicated, you may vote in a candidate's party by filling in the oval and writing the name on the ballot line. c. If you are unable to mark your ballot, request a replacement ballot.			
PARTISAN OFFICES			
US House of Representatives District 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Wilkins Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Denise E. Elmer Republican <input type="checkbox"/> David Irving Republican		NC Secretary of State (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Elaine Marshall Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Ed Goodwin Republican NC Superintendent of Public Instruction (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Julie Atkinson Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> John Tedesco Republican	
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Straight Party (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic <input type="checkbox"/> Republican <input type="checkbox"/> Libertarian		NC House of Representatives District 48 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Garland E. Plente Democrat District Attorney District 96A (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Kristy McMillan Newton Democrat	
NC Lieutenant Governor (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Linda D. Coleman Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Dan Forest Republican		Board of County Commissioners (You may vote for THREE) <input type="checkbox"/> James A. Letch Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Robert A. (Bobby) Wright Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> John F. Harry Republican <input type="checkbox"/> Elida M. Thacker Republican	
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NC Commissioner of Agriculture (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Walker Smith Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Trudier Republican		County Register of Deeds (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Onnie Dudley Democrat	
NC Commissioner of Insurance (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Wayne Goodwin Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Causey Republican		End of Straight Party Voting Continue voting next side →	
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NC Court of Appeals Judge (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Wanda Bryant <input type="checkbox"/> Marty McGee			
NC Court of Appeals Judge (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Dillon <input type="checkbox"/> Cressie Thigpen			
NC District Court Judge District 16A (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> John J. Horne, Jr.			
County Board of Education (You may vote for THREE) <input type="checkbox"/> Rosa (Nancy) McAlister-McRae <input type="checkbox"/> Roosevelt McPherson <input type="checkbox"/> Betty J. Perkins <input type="checkbox"/> Hank Richards			
Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor (You may vote for ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> Gary Hendrix			
End of Ballot			

Veteran's Services in Hoke County

The Hoke County Veteran's Service Office (VSO) is located at 129 West Elwood Ave. in Raeford, NC. It is an agency of the Hoke County Government which is accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs (NCDVA) and various veteran's organizations to act as the representative of veterans, dependents and surviving spouses in presenting claims to the VA, other federal, state, and county agencies. These claims include disputes of decisions handed down by the VA as well as original claims for disability and compensation, application for medical and educational benefits, applications for scholarships for dependents, burial benefits claims for surviving

spouses, and home loan mortgage guarantees.

Other actions are to help restore or upgrade military discharges, obtain lost records or documents, obtaining medical treatment and in some cases providing legal counsel in certain matters. On a limited basis the VSO helps veterans find or apply for employment. The VSO reads and/or writes letters for those with limited skills. Assistance is provided in enrolling in appropriate mental health and substance programs. The Hoke County VSO assists veterans, dependents and widows in correctional facilities, hospitals, and through home visits for homebound clients.

The Hoke County VSO assists agencies such as Department of Social Services, funeral homes,

medical/health and other agencies in obtaining benefits for veterans, dependents, and widows. The VSO educates veterans on changes in benefits, laws and regulations through a newspaper column (Veteran's Notes) as well as attendance at meetings of the local veterans organizations. The VSO participates in patriotic holidays such as Veteran's Day and Memorial Day and local activities. The VSO makes arrangements to obtain shelter or other assistance for homeless veterans or those who have suffered fires or other disasters. The VSO also participates in some activities at the High School including ROTC, scholarships and oratorical contests and career information.



For Assistance
Please Contact:

Randy Smith,
Veterans Service Officer

Hoke County Veterans
Services

129 W. Elwood Ave,
Raeford NC 28376

Phone: (910) 875-2147

Fax: (910) 875-5462

Email:
rsmith@hokecounty.org

**"Serving Those
Who Served"**

Tax Office Notes | Important Dates to Remember

January 1 – 31 **Listing Period**

Property Owners list any personal property or inform tax office of any changes to real property. This includes additions, remodeling, removal of buildings, etc. Extensions for business personal property must be made in

writing. All exemption or exclusion forms are due with exception of the Elderly/Disability/VA applications.

June 1

Deadline for applying for Elderly/Disability/VA Exclusion

Mid-July

Tax bills mailed

July – August 31

2% discount allowed on current year taxes

Sept. 1

Real and Personal Property tax due

January 5

Last day to pay taxes without interest

January 6

All unpaid taxes are delinquent and subject to collection remedies

License Plate Agency

The Hoke County License Plate Agency has gone back to normal business hours since the return of Amanda Ward from maternity leave.

We at the license plate agency are quite proud to have an error rate well

below the state average, as well as fantastic reports in our audits by the state. We enjoy hearing more and more from our customers how much they prefer coming to our office versus other local offices. Not only Hoke County residents

utilize our branch, but many people travel from Fayetteville, Lumberton, Saint Pauls, Spring Lake, Aberdeen and etc. to come see us, boasting of the speedy service they receive with minimal wait times.

Our office is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Animal Control

The Animal Control Department has been working very hard to make positive changes to help save the lives of homeless animal of Hoke County.

In July we finished putting up 2 brand new 10x20 kennels. These two kennels serve as play and exercise yards for our resident dogs and puppies. Each play yard has two pools in each and toys to play with. The dogs love splashing around in the pools and

then sun bathe on their new Kuranda beds. The animals have been thoroughly enjoying their new space and shelter staff and volunteers could not be happier with the new addition.

Animal Control vehicles have also been undergoing a makeover. Animal Control Director, Ralph Cecil, thought it was time for a change. Each vehicle will have a blue stripe running down both sides making the vehicles much more visible. Keep

an eye out for our new look!

We will be having an adoption event and rabies clinic at the shelter on September 22nd between the hours of 10:00am-2:00pm. Rabies vaccinations will be given to dogs and cats four (4) months of age and older for \$6.00 each. Come on out and support the shelter!

Staff members have been working very hard to get the animals adopted and it has been paying off. Adoption numbers are also on the rise as well as rescues. Our Facebook page has been a very successful tool to help get our animals seen by mass quantities in a very short amount of time. You can view our page by search-

ing for "Assisting the Hoke Co. Animal Shelter on Facebook page. You can help the animals by simply sharing our photos onto your page.

Our most recent additions are our new part time employees. Please help us welcome Tracey Paider, Lorraine Sanchez, and Jennifer Carter to our department. They are both really excited to be a part of the team and we are very happy to have them.

Hours of Operation

Adoptions

Monday-Friday
9:00am to 4:00pm

Drop Off

Monday-Friday
8:00am to 4:45pm

Owner Claims

Monday-Friday
9:00am to 4:00pm



Parks & Recreation

Tuesday, October 16

NC State Fair Senior Day
\$20.00 (non-refundable)
per person to ride the
bus regardless of age.

Admission:

ages 65 and up (free)

ages 6 - 12 (\$3.00)

ages 13 - 64 (\$8.00)

Payment is due by Friday,
September 28.

New Program | Zumba

Zumba class is being of-

fered at Hoke County
High School in the Gibson
Cafeteria.

Tuesday and Thursday
from 5:30 - 6:30 pm.

Cost is \$30.00 per
month.

Hoke County Parks &
Recreation is coordinat-
ing a trip to **Niagara Falls
& Toronto** for 7 Days and
6 Nights starting on **Sep-
tember 30 and conclud-**

ing on October 6, 2012.

Winter Sports Registration

Hoke County Parks and
Recreation winter sports
registration for Youth
Basketball and Wrestling
will be from **November 5
- November 30**. Cost is
\$30.00 per participant.
The **opening day** for
games is tentatively set
for **January 19, 2013**.

Saturday, December 15

Duplin Winery
Dinner and Show

The total package price
of \$73.00 includes:
transportation, dinner,
show, and wine tasting.
1st balance of \$36.50 will
be due October 12 and
the remaining balance of
\$36.50 will be November
2.

Solid Waste Update

As most can see we are
pressing forward in our
efforts to complete the
new convenience site in
the Scurlock community.
The new site will be high
and dry and much more
convenient for our citi-
zens.

The Electronic Recycling
program we started this
year has been plagued
with difficulties as we
search for economically
feasible markets of dis-

posal. Our new partner
(as those who frequent
the Transfer Station can
see) has done a remark-
able job of processing
the plethora of items we
accumulated in the first
few months.

Please help us to resolve
a problem we are cur-
rently experiencing.
Some are delivering tele-
visions to our conven-
ience sites that are too
large for our workers to

lift and handle without
the possibility of injury.
We ask that any elec-
tronic item that one per-
son cannot comfortably
lift (into the dump bed of
the truck) be delivered to
the Transfer Station.
Thanks for your coopera-
tion.

One final item; loitering
and "dumpster diving"
is beginning to become a
big problem at some of
our convenience sites.

The Waste Enforcement
Officer will be watching
this more closely and will
be enforcing our ordi-
nance that prohibits
these activities.



Emergency Communications

The new Emergency
Communications Center
is nearing completion of
the construction phase.
We anticipate being fully
operational in Novem-
ber.

Hoke County Emergency
Communications was
awarded Project 33 certi-
fication for our training
program by the Associa-
tion of Public Safety
Communications Officials
(APCO). Obtaining this
certification means a

training program has met
APCO ANSI Standard
3.103.1-2010 which es-
tablishes best practices
for the training of new
Telecommunicators and
the continuing education
of current staff. Assistant
Director Tricia McKnight

attended the 2012 APCO
International Conference
in Minneapolis, MN to
accept the award. We
are 1 of 45 Centers in the
United States that have
earned this certification.



Water Leaks Cost Money

Water customers are constantly seeking means to keep monthly bills down and help water rates to remain low. One of the most effective ways of accomplishing this is by checking periodically for leaks and repairing the leak once identified.

You can also contact your local water authority for additional assistance.

MAKE EVERY DROP COUNT

Size Of Leak	Gallons Each Day at 60PSI	Gallons Each Month
• 1/16	360	11,160
• 1/8	3,096	95,976
• 3/16	8,424	261,144
• 1/4	14,952	463,512

Water Conservation & Water Loss Statistics	
1 Bath	42 Gallons
30 Baths	1,260 Gallons
1 Shower	17 Gallons
30 Showers	510 Gallons
1 Load	45 Gallons
20 Loads	900 Gallons
1 Flush	7 Gallons
10 Flushes/Day	2100 Gallons/Mo.

* Source: Principles and Practices of Water Supply Operations: Water Transmission and Distribution, Third Edition, AWWA, 2003.

- Leaking Faucet @ 100 Drips/Minute = 350 Gallons/Month
- Leaking Toilet @ 1/2 GPM = 21,600 Gallons/Month
- Watering Garden or Lawn 2HRS @ 5GPM = 18,000 Gallons/Month
- Watering Garden or Lawn 2HRS @ 10GPM = 36,000 Gallons/Month
- Unattended Water Hose 9HRS @ 10GPM = 5,400 Gallons

Help avoid costly bills and waste of our valuable natural resources.
DO YOUR PART TO CONSERVE WATER!

Senior Services | Queen of the Senior Center

Hoke County Senior Service Center crowned their first Queen of Hoke County Senior Center on September 7, 2012. From left to right, please show pride and honor to the Queen and her Court.



Mae Farley (Queen)



Anna Hoback



Eunice McLaughlin

Senior Services | SHIIP Training



Hoke County Senior Services' SHIIP Coordinator (Tanya Hall-Studivant) attended SHIIP training in July 2012 at Greensboro and got a chance to take a picture with North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin. Ms. Hall-Studivant is ready for October enrollment for Medicare Part D.

Senior Services | Wood Donation

Teri Guillemette (Program Coordinator) and Ester Harrell (Senior Services Director) gather donated fire wood for the winter to give to senior that still use wood for heating and to cooking. Call the Hoke County Senior Service Center for more information at 910-875-8588.

Picture donated by Bradley in Addressing



Senior Services | Senior Day

Senior Day at Hoke County Senior Services on September 12th was a success. The seniors enjoyed games, prizes, and food. The seniors from all sites gather for a day of fun and fellowship.



Cooperative Extension

Parents As Teachers has been offering group meetings to PAT families on the importance of keeping healthy for their children. Information along with activities has focused on being physically active. Parents As Teachers will be holding a group meeting for PAT families on October 4th. The group meeting; Celebrating America: Helping Children Develop Cultural Awareness; will look at ways to help children celebrate cultural awareness through literacy/books, games, music, arts and crafts.

Horticulture

Hoke County Cooperative Extension along with the Hoke County Farmers Market will be hosting a **Sunday Supper-Local Style dinner on October 7, 2012 from 4:30pm-6:30pm** at Williamson Farms -1275 Bethel Road Raeford, NC 28376. The tickets are \$6.00, children 4 and under are free. We encourage you

to come to the dinner and show our farmers how much you appreciate them. You will learn valuable information and will experience a wonderful dinner that includes local vegetables from Hoke County.

For more information contact Mary Hollingsworth, Horticulture Agent, at 910-875-3461.

Family and Consumer Sciences

The Center for Disease Control and Safety (CDC) estimates food-borne illnesses affect 48 million people annually in the United States, causing an estimated 128,000 hospitalizations and 3,000 deaths. Training food service employees to utilize safe food practices can prevent illnesses.

North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Hoke County, in collaboration with neighboring Family and Consumer Sciences Agents, provided a 16-

hour food safety certification class. 4 food service establishments participated, 7 food service employees completed the class with 6 passing the certification exam. The National Restaurant Association estimates the average cost of a food-borne illness outbreak to an establishment is \$75,000. If each of the 4 establishments prevented one food-borne illness outbreak a potential economic savings of \$300,000 to the businesses was provided through food safety education and good food handling practices. Hoke County Cooperative Extension will continue to offer ServSafe training each year for food service establishments.

Hoke County 4-H

Hoke County 4-H offered 29 workshops and tours during the summer. We had 95% participation in our classes. Fliers were distributed to over 4000 4-H'ers, elementary

school students and to the public. These workshops teach youth confidence, team building, and how to get along with others. Youth get the opportunity to participate in activities that they might not otherwise get the chance to do such as canning peaches, fishing, spend the night at the Zoo, kayaking, talk to a parrot, pet a giraffe, overnight camping, and much more.

4-H is available to any youth age 5-18. We currently have clubs for all ages. They are: Hoke County Hot Shots, Lucky Leaders, Monster Club, Junior Master Gardeners, and Southside Club. If you are interested in enrolling your child into 4-H, please call Cathy Brown or Cathy James at 875-2162 or by email cathy_brown@ncsu.edu or cathy_james@ncsu.edu.



Tips From IT | Cyber Bullying: Keep Your Family Safe

The Internet allows instantaneous connections with people from across the street or across the world. Because of the perceived anonymous nature of communicating online, some individuals use the Internet as a medium to communicate in inappropriate, harmful, and even threatening ways. A growing concern has been the use of the Internet to “bully” or harass someone, which is called cyber bullying.

While the activity affects both adults and children, this newsletter will focus on the impact to children and what steps can be taken to protect them.

Online Bullying

While both traditional “offline” bullying and cyber bullying can have serious negative impacts on the victim, cyber bullying has its own special concerns:

- Cyber bullying allows a level of anonymity. Children who would never say certain things in person can now make attacks or threats anonymously. A bully can more easily hide their identity or use an alias to trick their victims into thinking they are someone else.
- Cyber bullying eliminates the safe haven of

“home.” Children used to be able to retreat to safety of their home to escape traditional “offline” bullying, but in the always-connected world of today that is not always the case. Physical walls cannot block text messages, instant messages, social networks, emails and other forms of instantaneous communication. The constant barrage of attacks can greatly increase the stress on a victim of cyber bullying.

- Cyber bullying attacks can have a greatly magnified audience and a permanent impact. With the click of a button, embarrassing images, sensitive information, or even misinformation can be sent to hundreds, thousands, even millions of people. This greatly increases the potential damage one instance of cyber bullying can have. Once something is made public on the Internet it can be impossible to remove it, leaving a legacy of the event that can haunt an individual for years.

What can you do to protect your child?

- Talk to your child about cyber bullying. Make sure you keep an open dialogue so he/she feels

comfortable coming to you with any issues.

- Be familiar with your child’s interactions with friends and others. While cyber bullying can be caused by a random person (and thus difficult to prepare for) trouble with friends and others in your child’s social circle can also lead to cyber bullying.

- Teach your child not to respond to cyber bullies. Bullies enjoy the response; by not responding, that may encourage them to move on.

- Limit the amount of information your child shares online. Bullies can use multiple methods of communication to taunt or harass; by limiting your child’s exposure, you make it easier to limit a bully’s access. This may also limit the chance of a random cyber-bullying incident.

- If the bullying is a problem, consider closing down the particular point of access, if possible. Email, instant message accounts and even some phone companies allow you to block specific user names or phone numbers. Most companies will even let you change cell phone numbers, email addresses and instant message accounts



if needed.

- If your children are being harassed or threatened, report the activity. Many schools have instituted bullying programs, so school officials may have established policies for handling incidents. If necessary, contact your local law enforcement--your local police department or FBI branch are good starting points.

Resources for More Information:

Stop Cyberbullying

www.stopcyberbullying.org/index2.html

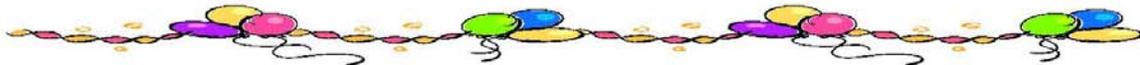
Cyberbullying Research Center

www.cyberbullying.us/

US-CERT tip, Dealing with Cyberbullies

www.us-cert.gov/cas/tips/ST06-005.html

Hoke County Health Center's Annual Maternity Fair!



Don't miss out on the FREE FOOD, GREAT DOOR PRIZES

*(Example: car seats, strollers, free dinner coupons,
baby items, & much, much more!)*



The community is invited!

No registration required

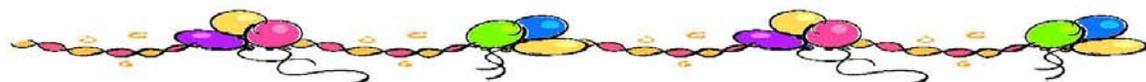
For expectant and 6 months postpartum mothers!

FUN, FUN, FUN!!!

When: *Wednesday, October 17, 2012*

Time: *5:30-8:00 PM*

Where: *Hoke County Senior Center
(Old Armory, 423 E. Central Ave.)*



Sponsored by: Hoke Co. Health Department; FirstHealth; Cape Fear Regional Bureau For Community Action Inc.; Parents As Teachers; Hoke Co. Public Library; Alcohol & Drug Services; Parents As Teachers; Safe Kids Mid-Carolinas Region; Hoke Co. Literacy Council; Community Outreach Advocate; Partnership For Children & Families; Sandhills Community College

For more information contact the

Feria Anual De Maternidad Del Centro De Salud Del Condado De Hoke!



¡No se lo pierda! Habran refrescos gratis y grandiosos premios gratis (Ejemplo: porta bebes, carriolas o coches, artículos de bebé, cupones para cenas y muchísimas cosas más!)La comunidad está invitada!



¡ Para Futuras madres y madres con 6 meses de haber tenido a su bebé!

No se requiere registraci3n

DIVERSION, DIVERSION, DIVERSION!!!

Cuando: *Mi3rcoles 17 de Octubre de 2012*

Hora: *5:300 a 8:00 PM*

Donde: *Centro de Adultos del Condado de Hoke*

(Hoke County Senior Center)

(Old Armory, 423 E. Central Ave.)



Patrocinado por: Hoke Co. Health Department; FirstHealth; Cape Fear Regional Bureau For Community Action Inc.; Parents As Teachers; Hoke Co. Public Library; Alcohol & Drug Services; Parents As Teachers; Safe Kids Mid-Carolinas Region; Hoke Co. Literacy Council; Community Outreach Advocate; Partnership For Children & Families; Sandhills Community College

Para m3s informaci3n
llame al (910) 875-3717

34th Annual Literacy Sunday Program

On Sunday September 9, 2012, the Hoke Reading/Literacy Council celebrated its 34th annual "Literacy Sunday" program. This marked the culmination of their annual "Dollars for Literacy" drive. It was held at the Senior Services room of the L. E. McLaughlin building.

Special recognition award were awarded to the student, tutor, supporter and volunteer of

the year. This year's award winners were:

Raz Autry Award for Academic Excellence was awarded to Miss Devia Stroud

Doris Calloway Award for Tutor of the Year was awarded to Mrs. Olive Morris

J. D. McAllister Award was given to Hoke County Schools as supporter of the year

Hoke Reading/Literacy Award for Volunteer of the Year was given to Mrs. Louise McLeod

Instead of a guest speaker, students enrolled in the program gave testimonials as to how the program has helped them. These speakers were Miss Devia Stroud, Mr. Kenneth Finkley, Miss Evyan Figueroa and Mrs. Dulce Figueroa.

Refreshments were provided by Sam's Club of Fayetteville, Wal-Mart of Raeford, Food Lion, (Fayetteville Rd and Cole Ave) of Raeford and Muncheez Express, also of Raeford.



Library | NOOK eReaders Now Available For Checkout



If you've been wanting to try an eReader, here's your chance to do so without buying one yourself!

Beginning in October, NOOK Simple Touch eReaders will be avail-

able for checkout at Hoke County Public Library!

The NOOKs will be pre-loaded with titles from websites such as Project Gutenberg, The Book Depository, Fictionwise and Open Library, with each device containing titles of a particular genre, such as classics, adult fiction, mysteries, juvenile classics, etc.

New books and current bestsellers are not yet available, due to cost issues and publisher restrictions on library

purchases of eBooks.

To check out a NOOK, a patron must sign a user agreement, have a current account that's in good standing, with a photo on record, and be 18 years old & up.

The loan period for NOOKs will be 2 weeks with no renewals. Late fines are \$2.00 per day, while the replacement fee for a NOOK and its accessories is \$185.00.

NOOKs must be returned to staff at the circulation desk (not in the book

drop). Patrons should remain until the device & accessories are checked by staff.

Each device will include a copy of the NOOK Quick Start Guide, but library staff will also do a basic orientation with each patron, as needed.

Orientation will include how to turn the device on and off, how to charge the device, and how to use the buttons and touch screen controls.

Library | Volunteers Needed

Hoke County Public Library's Homework Central has been a part of our school-year programs for the last few years, and is always extremely popular with

local students and their parents. Children & teens in grades K-12 often need a hand in understanding and completing their homework assignments, and the Library is

the perfect place for them to go for help.

However, the Homework Central program depends on volunteers, members of the community with

the skills & abilities to assist students in subjects ranging from basic math to algebra, spelling, geography and science.

Library | Smart Start Funded F*A*R Programs Start in October

F*A*R is Fun! Children get a FREE BOOK at each program, and you can learn how to help your little ones be READY TO READ!

The Families All Read (F*A*R) program, a Smart Start funded project operated by Sandhill Regional Library System and Hoke County Public Library, will begin offering family reading events this month, and continuing through May 2013. The program

is geared toward families with children ages 0-5, and is designed to improve the children's early literacy skills and enhance the literacy, knowledge & skills of their parents and caregivers.

Family Reading Night events will be scheduled twice a month, on first and third Thursdays, at 6:30 pm. Families and kids will be entertained (and educated) during a storytime event full of fun,

age-appropriate stories, songs, books, fingerplays, and more — and each child age 5 & under gets a free book to take home! Family Reading Saturdays will be held one weekend a month, with the same format, and another free book for kids 5 & under! For more information, contact Jackie Kicklighter or Nancy McNeill at 875-2502 or hokefamiliesall-read@gmail.com.



Library | Got a Library Card? Get NCLive Too!

If you've got a library card at Hoke County Public Library, you don't only have access to our onsite print & electronic resources (books, magazines, movies, computers, audiobooks, etc.)

You also get free online access — at home, work, or elsewhere — to NCLive, North Carolina's statewide online library service, dedicated to pro-

viding North Carolinians with online library and information resources that support education, enhance statewide economic development, and increase quality of life. Designed for at-home use, NC LIVE eBooks, magazines, newspapers, journals, media, and other online materials are available from any Internet connection via library websites, and through

www.nclive.org. NC LIVE offers free electronic access to resources for all ages on topics ranging from careers, business, and investing, to auto repair, health, history, and genealogy. Just stop by Hoke County Public Library (or any NC public or college library where you have a card!) to sign up for NCLive & get the password. It's easy & it's free!



Library | Jessica Ferron Moves On After Decade of Service

Just over 10 years ago, a Hoke County High School freshman started volunteering here at the Public Library. She was always energetic and hard-working and fun to have around. In her final year of high school, she even did her senior project on the Library — and got an "A"! — and when a part-time job opened up after she graduated, we hired

her, of course!

That talented young lady is Jessica (Watkins) Ferron, who eventually moved from part-time to a full-time position in charge of Children's and Teen's Services, where she did a most excellent job of planning, organizing & presenting library events & programs, including Teen Night,

Homework Central & the Summer Reading Program.

Jessica's talents must be shared, however. In September, she left the Library for a position with Children's Services on Ft. Bragg.

We will all miss her, and wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.



Library | Upcoming Programs

October 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Basic Computer Class 5:00-6:00 pm	3	4 Basic Computer Class 10:00-11:00 am F*A*R Family Reading Night 6:30 pm	5	6 Basic Computer Class 10:00-11:00 am
7	8	9 Basic Computer Class 5:00-6:00 pm	10 HCPL Board Meeting 4:00 pm Library History Room	11 Basic Computer Class 10:00-11:00 am	12	13 Basic Computer Class 10:00-11:00 am
14	15	16 Basic Computer Class 5:00-6:00 pm	17 Maternity Fair 5:30-8:00 pm @ Senior Center, Central Ave. Come by & visit our booth!	18 Basic Computer Class 10:00-11:00 am F*A*R Family Reading Night 6:30 pm	19	20 Basic Computer Class 10:00-11:00 am F*A*R Family Reading Saturday 3:00 pm
21	22 Friends of the Library, 6:30 pm Library History Room	23 Basic Computer Class 5:00-6:00 pm	24	25 Basic Computer Class 10:00-11:00 am	26	27 Basic Computer Class 10:00-11:00 am
28	29	30 Basic Computer Class 5:00-6:00 pm	31 Hoke Co. Public Library Book-a-Boo 4:00-6:00 pm 	COMING IN NOVEMBER: F*A*R Family Reading Events: Nov. 1, 10 & 15 Basic Computer Classes: Tuesdays @ 5:00 pm Thursdays & Saturdays @ 10:00 am		

Library | Join Our Friends

Library Friends Have Book Sales!



Join the Friends and help us help Hoke County Public Library provide needed services for all the members of our community!

Contact the Hoke County Public Library at (910) 875-2502 for more information!



Library Friends Boogie in the Books!

Employee Benefit Center



Have a question about your benefits?

The answer is a click away!

Try the Hoke County Employee Benefit Center (EBC) to find the answers.

Go to...

www.hokecounty.org

In the Menu, go to **Information > Human Resources.**

Scroll down the page until you see this image.



What is an Employee Benefit Center?

It allows you to discuss important benefit decisions at home or anywhere...

What can I expect to find in our EBC?



All county benefits information resides in one place, giving you access 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



A search feature allows quick access to your benefits information, provider directories, SPDs, FAQs, forms, and other content.



Wellness Manager includes an illustrated medical encyclopedia, drug interaction checker, chronic care guides, and more.



Life Events section provides information to help you and your family manage lifestyle issues.



Financial planning Calculators helps to educate and assist you with managing your finances.



Office of the Sheriff

Hoke County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management
HUBERT A. PETERKIN, Sheriff

429 East Central Avenue
Raeford, NC 28376

PO Box 300
Raeford, NC 28376

Phone (910) 875-5111
Fax (910) 875-2034



HOKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S FRESH PRESS NEWS

The Sheriff's Office has a new employee! We would like to welcome **Lieutenant George Marr** coming to us as the Road Patrol Commander.

We would like to congratulate **Donald Schwab** who has been promoted to a Lieutenant in the Detective Division.

We would also like to congratulate **Mark Caskey** who recently received the **Advanced Award in Law Enforcement!**

Fall is Here!

Fall Home Fire Safety Tips

It's never too early in the fall to begin to think about cooler days and nights that are sure to come. The Hoke Fire Marshal's Office encourages everyone to think about good fire safety practices to keep you and your loved ones safe and sound.

Fireplace and Home Fire Safety

More than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves and other fuel-fired appliances as primary heat sources in their homes. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the fire risks when heating with wood and solid fuels.

Heating fires account for 36% of residential home fires in rural areas every year. Often these fires are due to creosote buildup in chimneys and stovepipes. All home heating systems require regular maintenance to function safely and efficiently.

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) encourages you to practice the following fire safety steps to keep those home fires safely burning. Remember, fire safety is your personal responsibility ...Fire Stops With You!

Keep Fireplaces and Wood Stoves Clean

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces. Leave glass doors open while burning a fire.
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures.
- Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplaces, otherwise you may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.
- Use fire-resistant materials on walls around wood stoves.

Safely Burn Fuels

- Never use flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Use only seasoned hardwood. Soft, moist wood accelerates creosote buildup.
- Build small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke.
- Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris in your fireplace or wood stove
- When building a fire, place logs at the rear of the fireplace on an adequate supporting grate.
- Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended. Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Soak hot ashes in water and place them in a metal container outside your home.

Protect the Outside of Your Home

- Stack firewood outdoors at least 30 feet away from your home.
- Keep the roof clear of leaves, pine needles and other debris.
- Cover the chimney with a mesh screen spark arrester.
- Remove branches hanging above the chimney, flues or vents.

Protect the Inside of Your Home

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home. Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Consider installing the new long life smoke alarms. Remember to call us when you need help checking your detector in those high ceilings.
- Provide proper venting systems for all heating equipment.
- Extend all vent pipes at least three feet above the roof.





Fire Safety

Halloween is a fun holiday but it's also an important time to practice fire safety. The occurrence of fire increases around Halloween due to arson and the use of candles as decorations. Follow these tips for a happy and fire-safe Halloween:

- If you buy a costume, make sure the label says "Flame Resistant." *Flame Resistant* means the costume will be hard to catch on fire and if it does, the fire will go out fast.
- If you make a costume, try not to make one that is big and baggy so that the material doesn't touch candles or other flames. Use flame-resistant fabrics, such as polyester and nylon. These materials will resist burning if exposed to a flame.
- Tell kids to stay away from candles and jack-o'-lanterns that may be on steps and porches. Their costumes could catch fire if they get too close.
- Kids should never carry candles when they are trick-or-treating. Always use a flashlight, flameless candle, or light stick.
- Tell kids to let you know right away if they see other kids playing with matches or lighters.
- Don't use candles for decorations. They're dangerous, especially when left unattended.
- Use only decorative lights tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory. Check lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Throw away damaged sets. Don't overload extension cords.
- Check the Consumer Product Safety Commission's website for the latest on Halloween-related consumer product recalls.
- If you have a Halloween party, check for cigarettes under furniture cushions and in areas where people were smoking before you go to bed.
- Remove any materials around your home or property, such as garbage or excess vegetation, which an arsonist could use to start a fire.



Halloween General Safety Guidelines

Halloween is that magical time of year when children get to dress up in wonderful and outrageous costumes as they gather a bag full of treats. Halloween is really for children and children should ideally participate in all aspects of Halloween from helping to decorate the house to helping pick their costumes.

Costume Safety



- Coming up with a creative disguise doesn't mean that safety needs to be forgotten, so here are some safety tips to keep in mind.
- October 31 can be a chilly night so make sure that costumes are loose enough to be worn over warm clothing but not so baggy or long that trick-or-treaters can trip over their costumes.
- Trick-or-treaters should wear sturdy walking shoes.
- Choose brightly-colored costumes that will be clearly visible to motorists. For greater visibility, add or incorporate reflective tape into the costume.
- Make-up and face paint are better than wearing masks which can restrict breathing and/or vision. If you choose to use a mask make sure it is one that allows the child to see and breathe easily.
- Swords, knives and similar accessories should be made of soft, flexible material.
- Look for costumes, beards and wigs labeled "Flame-Resistant" -- nylon or heavyweight polyester costumes are best. Flame Resistant does not mean 'fire proof'. Avoid costumes with baggy sleeves or flowing skirts to minimize the risk of contact with candles and

other fire sources. Costumes made of flimsy materials have been found to burn more quickly when exposed to fire sources.

- Think twice before changing the color of your eyes with cosmetic contact lenses. These cosmetic lenses should be used only under the supervision of an eye-care professional. In addition, wear time should be limited to the shortest duration possible. The lenses must never be worn while asleep, and cosmetic contact lenses should not be shared with others. If you should choose to wear these lenses, be certain that they are cleaned properly.



Decorating Your House

By decorating your home, you signal to other trick-or-treaters that your household is taking part in Halloween.

- Children too young for trick-or-treating can dress up in costume and help answer the door with a parent nearby.
- Small children should never carve pumpkins. Instead, let your child draw a face on the pumpkin.
- Make your home safe for trick-or-treaters. Remove all objects around the outside of your house that could cause children to trip or fall. Turn your outside light on so children will know they can visit your home.
- Keep candles, jack-o-lanterns, matches and lighters in a place that children cannot reach.
- Halloween candles with multiple wicks close to one another are hazardous and should not be used. When lit they can produce a single high flame or several large flames close together resulting in intense heat and the danger of igniting nearby materials such as curtains or window sills.
- Keep pets inside and away from trick-or-treaters and lit candles, especially if they are easily frightened or become over-excited in the presence of strangers.
- If using decorative lights indoors or outdoors, use lights certified by a recognized organization such as the Underwriters' Laboratory (UL). Check lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires or loose connections. Discard damaged sets. Do not overload extension cords.

Trick-or-Treat!



- On Halloween, most trick-or-treaters set out around dusk but the youngest wave of ghosts, witches and rock stars might begin ringing your bell in the late afternoon.
- Parents should accompany their children each year until the children are old enough to go by themselves. Still, safety-minded parents can follow along at a distance to keep an eye on the children.

Other Halloween Tips:

- Tell your children not to eat any goodies until you see them. Make sure that your child eats dinner before they set out, so they'll be less tempted to eat their goodies along the way.
- It might be a good idea for parents or children to take along a backpack to empty the goodies into if the trick-or-treat bags become too heavy.
- Children should stay in well-lit areas and should only visit homes that have their outside lights turned on. Children should never go inside homes or cars.
- Children should walk, not run, from house to house and stay on the sidewalk or at the side of the road facing traffic, cross the road at the corner and look both ways before crossing the road.

The Goodies



The best part about Halloween! But before your children begin to eat their loot, make sure you examine it first. Throw out any treats that are not wrapped, those in torn or loose packages, or any that have small holes in the wrappers. Check toys or novelty items for small parts and do not allow children under the age of three years of age to play with them.

You might want to offer an alternative to sugar-based treats. Gum should be sugarless. Stickers, multi-colored pencils or beads can be a nice surprise in place or in addition to traditional treats. Ask your children what they think a good treat would be.

Then sit back and enjoy. Happy Halloween!



Fall Is A Great Time To Review Fire Extinguisher Safety At Home and Work

PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives; but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the number one priority for residents is to get out safely.



Safety tips

- Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.
- To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS:
 - **P**ull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism.
 - **A**im low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
 - **S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.
 - **S**weep the nozzle from side-to-side.
- For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.
- Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory.
- Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out. Local fire departments or fire equipment distributors often offer hands-on fire extinguisher trainings.
- Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.
- Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape planned working smoke alarms.



*School Is Back In Don't Forget to Visit
Kids.gov..... It's Educational!*

It's for everyoneKids Grade K-5 – Teens Grade 6-8 – Grown-Ups

Kids.gov is the U.S. government's website for children (grades K-8). Kids, parents, and teachers can use the site to get help with homework, access lesson plans, watch videos, play games, and more.

If you've visited Kids.gov previously, you'll notice that the website has been completely redesigned. The vibrant new site provides areas for three specific audiences: kids (grades K-5), teens (grades 6-8), and grown-ups (teachers and parents).

Enjoy exploring all that Kids.gov has to offer, including the following examples:

- How to Become President of the United States -- Check out a colorful and informative poster to help kids understand the process of becoming President.
- Videos Featuring Various Careers -- View videos describing different professions, ranging from an archeologist with the National Park Service to an executive chef at the White House.
- How Parents Can Get Involved -- Get homework tips, learn about school meal programs, find out how to help stop bullying, and more.
- Lesson Plans -- Teachers can find lesson plans on math, history, science, music, and other topics.

About Kids.gov

Brought to you by USA.gov, Kids.gov is the official kids' portal for the U.S. government. We link kids, parents and teachers to U.S. government information and services on the web from government agencies, schools, and educational organizations, all geared to the learning level and interest of kids.

Kids.gov Mission

To provide a safe place online where kids can create, play, and learn.

How Kids.gov is Organized

Kids.gov is organized into three audiences: Grades K-5, Grades 6-8, and Educators. Each audience tab is divided into educational subjects like Arts, Math, and History. Within each subject, the websites are grouped as either government sites (Federal, state, military) or other resources (commercial, non-profit, educational). The sites listed under the other resources category are maintained by other public and private organizations. When users click on these links, they are leaving Kids.gov and are subject to the privacy and security policies of the owners/sponsors of the outside websites.

Please visit our Kids Privacy page for more information.

Kids.gov Social Media

- We believe in delivering information and services in ways that are convenient for you. Check out our YouTube and Teacher Tube channels and be sure to sign up for our weekly newsletter to get up to date information on what's happening in the Kids.gov community.