

The Encourager



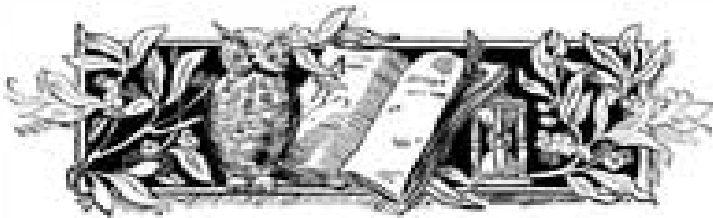
Supporting Home Instruction
Encompassing Lexington District

Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He.

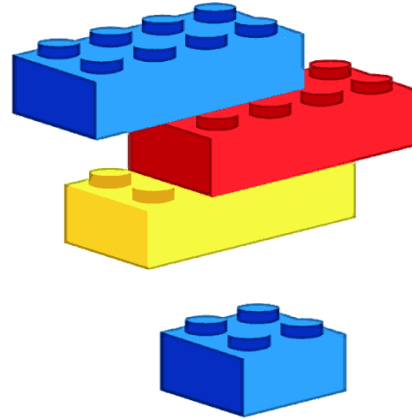
Deuteronomy 32:2-4

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A Bricksburg Worldview



In Bricksburg, everything is AWESOME...that is as long as you fit in; you make everybody like you, and always be happy with everything and everyone! A few weeks ago, my family and I went to see the *LEGO Movie*, and I have to admit I enjoyed it. There were many aspects of the movie to intrigue kids of all ages, from the endless array of pop-culture references, and the everyman Emmett versus the evil President Business of the Octane Corporation, to the David and Goliath style battle between good and evil. It would be very easy to go on and on about the movie and how it could be seen in many respects as a representation of the many things that are right and wrong with the world today. Next time you have an opportunity to watch the *LEGO Movie*, do so from a worldview perspective, and compare the Bricksburg worldview to our society today. One thing that will become painfully obvious is that our society today is very much a Bricksburg society. With minimal exceptions, every person we encounter in some way conforms to a worldly perspective of fitting in and going along, rather than truly approaching the world from a perspective of Christian discernment as we should. Paul tells us in Romans 12:2 as Christians, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

As Christian homeschoolers, many of us understand a Christian worldview of non-conformity and discernment with respect to the world's perspective on education, but what about other areas of our life. How difficult it is to stay focused on a Christian worldview in those areas. As Christians, "Christ-Followers," we are in the world, physically present, but we should not be "of it" -- not part of its values or worldly perspectives. In John 17:14-15 Jesus speaks of this type discernment and says, "¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one." As Christian homeschoolers, the last line should ring loudly in our minds, we should set apart and protect our families from the evils of the world, and in a Bricksburg society, that takes daily focus and dogged commitment.

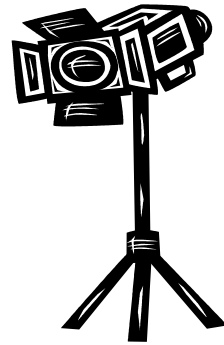
We must also understand that we are in the world for a reason, to be a light to those who are in spiritual darkness. We are to live in such a way that those outside the faith will see something "different" about us. Being "in" the world enables us to be witnesses and to enjoy the beautiful creation God has given us, but we are not to immerse ourselves in what the world values, nor are we to chase after worldly pleasures. C.S. Lewis once said, "If you think of this world as a place intended simply for our happiness, you find it quite intolerable: think of it as a place of training and correction and it's not so bad." It's all about our perspective.

Discernment in simple terms is the ability to think biblically about all areas of our life. It is incumbent on us as Christians to focus on such biblical discernment. Without it, our families are at risk of being "tossed to and fro by waves, and carried about by every wind" (Ephesians 4:14), like the citizens of Bricksburg. The inhabitants of Bricksburg lived strictly by "instructions," without wavering, without question, without discernment. They always smiled, parked between the lines, dropped off their laundry before noon, looked forward to Taco Tuesday, and lived in a world that from all appearances seemed to be perfection. As Christians, we know better; and we too have instructions as citizens of the Kingdom of God. Those instructions tell us to set ourselves apart, do not conform to the world, and seek the will of God by wisely applying Christian discernment to our worldviews.



“Coordinator Spotlight”

While all of our coordinators and volunteers give all glory to God while they serve SHIELD, and would probably prefer to stay out of the spotlight, we thought you would enjoy getting to know them a little more!



[Aimee Kollmansberger](#) serves SHIELD as G.I.F.T. Coordinator. Aimee and her husband Mike have six children: Sam-9th grade, Katie-8th grade, John-5th grade, Will-2nd grade, Luke-preschool, & Henry-2 years old. They have been homeschooling for 10 years and have been members of SHIELD on and off for about 8 years.

Q. What are your favorite SHIELD activities/events?

A. When my older children were young, I really enjoyed the Boys and Girls Clubs...especially the American Girl Club. It was so fun to highlight the historical dolls each month with other mothers and daughters, do a craft, and learn together. Currently, I have really been enjoying our monthly GIFT group. I have a passion for women connecting with one another and giving support to one another and this has been a nice touch-point with other homeschooling mothers.

Q. What is your family's favorite activity?

A. We love camping and hiking and exploring. We try to camp several times a year...that has been more challenging now that we have six children! We never regret the time we spend outside in the Lord's amazing creation. We also really enjoy board games like Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride and Carcassonne.

Q. What is your favorite food/recipe?

A. *I always say that food is the sixth "love language" and I truly can't imagine narrowing it down to one food or recipe! I will share our favorite Chocolate Chip cookie recipe...once you have these, you'll never use another. And perfect for those sibling squabbling afternoons :) (see pg. 14 for the recipe)*

Q. What do you find most challenging about homeschooling?

A. *The noise and sibling fights! I have five sons and the amount of talking and energy and togetherness and squabbles can be difficult for me to manage. I have to find spaces for quiet and peace so that homeschooling can be sustainable for me.*

Q. What are your hobbies?

A. *Homeschooling has offered me the beautiful opportunity for the time and space to get to know myself and to find many hobbies that I really love and that feed my soul. Reading and cooking are probably my biggest ones but I also really love sewing, thrifting/antiquing, knitting/crochet, decorating and any craftiness involving fabric or paper, scissors, and a hot glue gun.*

Q. What is your favorite book?

A. *I have so many because I enjoy so many different genres! I can give you four that are usually yearly re-reads for me. Gift from the Sea by Anne Morrow Lindbergh. Margin by Dr. Richard Swenson. For the Children's Sake by Susan Schaeffer Macaulay. Stepping Heavenward by Elizabeth Prentiss.*

Q. What is your favorite verse or passage of scripture?

A. *Romans 8 without a doubt. And I also love the simplicity of I Corinthians 16:14 "Do everything in love."*



Calendar of Events

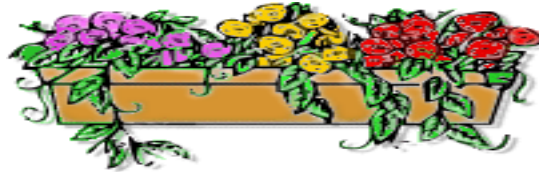
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| May 9 (Fri) | Drama Club Presentation,
Riverbend Church, 7:00 pm |
| May 16 (Fri) | Achievement Night, Riverbend
Church, Lexington |
| May 22 (Thurs) | Chick-fil-A Spirit Night Yearbook
Signing & Fundraiser, Lexington
Chick-fil-A, 5-7 pm |

Thank you to our SHIELD Coordinators and Volunteers:

Thank you to the many Coordinators and Volunteers who sacrificed their time and energy this year to make SHIELD a thriving support group! For those who will be changing to a different area of service, we thank you for what you did this year and look forward to where you will be serving during 2014-15.

*Whatever you
do, work at it
with all your
heart, as working
for the Lord, not
for men.
Colossians 3:23*





Dear SHIELD Members,

The SHIELD Leadership Team (Mandy, Tracy & Karen) has already started planning for the upcoming school year. Please add the leadership team to your prayer list as we continue to discern God's path for our group.

The Leadership Team is always open to hearing about new ideas and opportunities from our members as we all work together to make SHIELD a relevant support group! As most of you know, SHIELD has been blessed with many dedicated coordinators and volunteers over the years. Because of this, our families have enjoyed many wonderful opportunities to enrich our home schools. In the past, we have been able to offer events such as Father/Daughter Date Night, Healthy Moms Group, Chess Club, Summer Roller Skating, New Homeschooler Night, etc. because there was a member with a passion for that event. This year we were able to start our GIFT meetings and several new clubs. Next year, we plan to introduce Literacy Night, thanks to Jennifer Cogle, who stepped forward with this idea and commitment to coordinate it. Every year looks a little different depending upon whom the Lord brings into our group! One of our goals as a Leadership Team is to support and encourage new ideas and opportunities.

If you have areas in which you would like to serve, helpful comments, or something you feel we need to discuss, please email them to one of us. Please be in prayer about how God may use your gifts and talents this coming year.

As always, thank you to all those who are currently serving SHIELD as coordinators, advisors, team members, etc. Thanks for all you do to make SHIELD an amazing support group!

~SHIELD Leadership Team

~Tracy Taylor, Mandy Dufries & Karen Collins

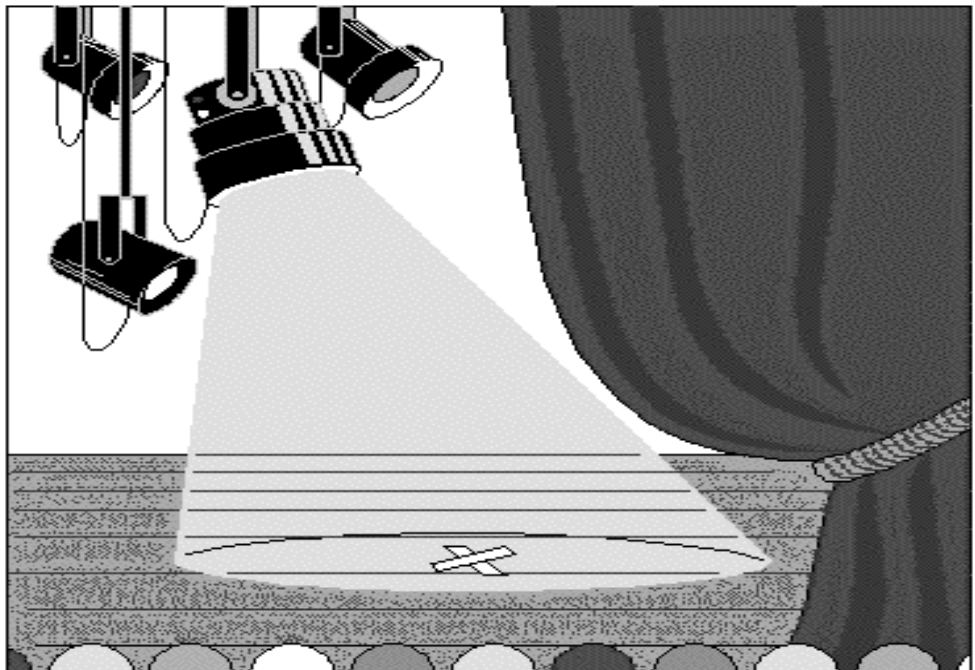
Drama Club Play

Our SHIELD DRAMA CLUB will present their Spring Play 2014 entitled, "No Matter What" on **Friday, May 9th** at 7 p.m at Riverbend Community Church.

The teachable themes involve Science and God's Faithfulness. This would be a great night for Families to learn together! The Actors and Actresses will be encouraging the Audience to sing-a-long during the Play. There is **NO COST** for this Performance.

Everyone is invited to the "Dessert and Fellowship Time" immediately afterwards.

Please Mark Your Calendars Now!



SHIELD's Achievement Night 2014

Friday, May 16th, 2014
Riverbend Community Church
1015 Corley Mill Road, Lexington, SC 29072

6:00 pm-Yearbook distribution and signing
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm –Achievement Night
Cake and beverages following

In addition to Kindergarten Graduation and Senior Recognition, SHIELD offers certificates for every student finishing 1st -11th grade:

You must rsvp for this by Friday, May 2nd.

Send student/s name and grade completing to Tracy Taylor at ttaylor24@sc.rr.com.

We hope to see you all there to celebrate another year!



YEARBOOK NEWS

Josie Seacrist has officially replaced Leah Tilghman as Yearbook Coordinator; we thank Leah for her years of service and wish her well in future endeavors!

If you have any yearbook questions, please contact Josie from now on. Email: pjseacrist@yahoo.com, Home Phone 803-957-8707.

Got a Yearbook?

You can still purchase your 2014 yearbook by sending a check for \$30 payable to SHIELD to Josie Seacrist 1149 Counts Ferry Road, Lexington SC 29072. Quantities are limited. Yearbooks will be available for purchase at Achievement Night and Chick-fil-a Spirit Night while supplies last. If you have any questions about yearbook sales contact Josie at pjseacrist@yahoo.com.

YAP MEMBERS NEEDED

YAP is the Yearbook Advisory Panel; they helped guide the yearbook staff in everything from formal to the yearbook. Many hands make light work, and yearbook is A LOT of work; too much work for just a few to handle. If you are interested in helping please email Josie at pjseacrist@yahoo.com for more information.



YEARBOOK NEWS

It's almost that time..... **DISTRIBUTION!**

The final reveal of the 2014 SHIELD Yearbook!

Yearbooks will be distributed at 6:30 pm Achievement Night, Friday May 16 and at our Chick-fil-a Spirit Night Fundraiser Thursday, May 22 between 5-7 pm. If you do not get your yearbook at either of these distributions it is up to you to contact us and arrange pickup. Please email Josie at pjseacrist@yahoo.com with any questions.

FUNDRAISER

Did you know that the yearbook really costs about \$50? We are able to sell it to you at a lower price because of the fundraisers like formal and our Chik-fil-a Spirit Night and our Publix key tags. But we need you to keep participating in our fundraisers so we can keep the cost low for you. With that said, **please attend/or eat at Chick-fil-a in Lexington on Thursday, May 22.** Our event is from 5-7pm but you may eat there anytime that day, and when you tell them your with SHIELD or give them our flyer (coming in early May to your email) they will donate a portion of the sales to the SHIELD Yearbook. So spread the word to all your friends and family and come out and see us!



SHIELD Field Trip Volunteers Needed!

It has been a wonderful year of field trips. We were able to offer over 40 trips for our SHIELD families. I would like to thank our field trip team for their hard work and dedication. Thank you Lisa Jaeger, Amanda Smith, Colleen Eubanks, Shelley Cannon, Christine Bingler, Leslie Ballard, Sonja Sharpe, Amy Hallman, and Jennifer Aurednik. We enjoyed learning together!

Since many of our current members cannot serve again next year, we would like to add 5-7 new members to our team for the 2014-2015 school year. Each team member can plan as many field trips as their time allows for our group. The process for planning a trip can take less than 30 minutes of your time. Our team members contact the venue, make the arrangements for our group by gathering all of the necessary details, and relay the information to our field trip coordinator via e-mail. You will not need to keep track of registrations and payment as a team member as this is completed on-line. On the day of the trip, team members welcome our SHIELD families and enjoy a day of learning together. It is a great way to plan specific trips that will benefit what you are learning in your studies.

We will have one brief meeting in July at the Lexington library to plan a partial calendar for the year. (If you are unable to be there, you can share your information via e-mail.) If you would like to volunteer, please e-mail Rebecca. We appreciate your willingness to serve!

Please contact:
Rebecca Becker
Field Trip Coordinator
jandbbecker@aol.com



SHIELD Field Trip

Name: Roper Mountain Science Center Homeschool Discovery Day

Address of event: 402 Roper Mountain Rd. Greenville, SC 29615

Description: Here's a sampling of more than 40 mini lessons and demonstrations that may be offered:

- Planetarium Shows at 9:30, 11:00 & 12:30
- Explore the Rainforest Habitat and meet its inhabitants
- Solar viewing and learn about Galileo in the Observatory
- Walk back in time on the Living History Farm and Gardens
- Experience a typical 1900's School Day with the "School Marm"
- Meet the barn animals and feed the chickens
- Capture insects in the Gardens with our naturalist
- Handle live ocean creatures in the Marine Lab
- Experience a Cow Heart Dissection
- Join our Geologist in our Fossil Mini-Dig site
-and much, much, more

Date: Friday, May 23, 2014

Time of event: 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Grade Level: K5-12th grade

Cost: TBD per person

Payment Info: You will pay with cash or check only once you arrive.

Website: <http://www.ropermountain.org/educators/home-school>

Details: No registration is necessary for this field trip. Just show up and pay at the door. (Note: They do not accept credit cards so have cash or a check with you.)

Brown Butter and Fleur de Sel Chocolate Chip Cookies

(recipe mentioned in Coordinator Spotlight from Aimeee Kollmansberger)

2 sticks (1 cup) butter

1 1/4 cups packed light brown sugar

1/4 cup granulated sugar

2 large eggs

2 teaspoons vanilla

2 3/4 cups all purpose flour

1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda

1/2 teaspoon Fleur de Sel or sea salt

One 10-ounce bag chocolate chips

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. and line a large baking sheet with a silpat liner or parchment paper
2. Place butter into a medium saucepan over medium heat, swirling pan to melt. Once melted watch carefully. Butter will foam, boil then little brown bits will start to form around sides and bottom of pan. Once butter turns a golden brown and has a very nutty aroma, remove from heat. I transfer mine to a bowl so cooking stops. Let cool for 5 minutes.
3. Place both sugars into stand or electric mixer. Add brown butter and mix until well combined. Add eggs and vanilla, mixing until well combined. Place flour, baking soda and Fleur de Sel/sea salt into a large bowl. Slowly add to wet ingredients then add in chocolate chips, mixing until just combined. Scoop dough onto prepared baking sheet with a medium sized cookie scoop and sprinkle tops with additional Fleur de Sel/sea salt. Bake for 9 to 11 minutes, until cooked through. Let cool for 5 minutes then transfer to cooling rack.

Members' Services

Do you or someone in your family have a service to offer other homeschoolers? If so, please send the information to Karen Collins at kscollins2@icloud.com.

Babysitters:

**** New Listing**** Mackenzie Dufries 803-996-1379, Red Cross certificate

Hannah Goude, Red Cross Certification in babysitting and CPR
(803) 951-0943 or 312-4095. djgoude@icloud.com

Lauren Goude, Red Cross Certification in babysitting and CPR
(803) 951-0943 or 312-4095. djgoude@icloud.com

Other:

Irene and Ed Albritton (aiah5951@hotmail.com; edseditions@sc.rr.com) own Ed's Editions LLC Quality Used and Collectible Books, 406 Meeting Street, West Columbia 29169. We offer a 10% discount for homeschool families. Open Tuesday - Saturdays 11am - 5:30pm. 803-791-8002.

Marcey Zimmerman, Independent consultant with The Pampered Chef & Distributor with doTerra essential oils, 803-361-7142 or 803-568-4985
Marceyannezimm@yahoo.com

Valerie Harris--individual and group harp lessons. 957-5388 or 553-2630.

Trinity Tutoring: Evaluations and tutoring for elementary level reading concerns by a certified teacher and a trained Reading Specialists. Contact Lisa Jaeger at ljaeger156@gmail.com.

Lisa Jaeger, Premier Designs Independent Distributor,
lisajaeger.mypremierdesigns.com, ljaeger156@gmail.com, 240-4328

Starla Stidham, Usborne representative -- Host a party and get double the free books (limited offer)! A great way to build your home library. Order online at <https://x3024.myubam.com/>, or contact me at starlastidham@gmail.com or (803) 463-6090.

Jessica Smith, 803-260-2473, Independent Distributor of Herbalife. Call for a free Health Evaluation and Body Scan. jessica.smith.nutrition@gmail.com. (803) 996-3631

Shannon Steen: PartyLite Consultant: (843)412-9264
www.partylite.biz/shannonsteen countrycandles4u@hotmail.com

Members' Services

Sherri Almeida, Owner of Palmetto Children's Music, LLC (Locations in Columbia and Lexington) We offer music classes for children birth to age five and the adults who love them. (803) 546-7930 www.PalmettoChildrensMusic.com

Shelley Cannon - Bee Trail Farm, LLC – we sell local bees and honey! 803.360.7978
Beetrailfarm@gmail.com

Kayla Tilghman, Melodic Memories, advanced student violinist with other strings accompaniment. For weddings and other special events. For more information please email melodicmemories2@gmail.com or contact Leah Tilghman at 920-8475.

Brandy Watts, Phebe Sky - children's clothing Etsy shop,
www.etsy.com/shop/PhebeSky?ref=si_shop

Jake Bingler, The Improvement Company, home remodeling and repairs, (803) 553-5302,
wbingler@sc.rr.com

Mandy Dufries, BC Spa Consultant, (803)996-1379 or (803)917-8012,
mdufriesbcspa@gmail.com, www.beautipage.com/mandydufries

Rebecca Becker, Thirty-One Gifts Consultant, www.mythirtyone.com/rbecker,
jandbbecker@aol.com, 785-2237

Tommy Barnhill, Barnhill Automotive-Honda Car Service and Repair, 772-5144

Todd & Katherine Shealy, SheBees Honey Farm, (803) 532-8444.

Sally Lucas, Coldwell Banker Realtor 803-760-0289, sally@sallylucashomes.com
Michael Lucas, Mortgage Broker with Coldwell Banker Mortgage, 803-315-8880,
michael.lucas@mortgagefamily.com

Laura Scaggs and Sherrie Morrison (Laura's mom): Bluegreen Resort rentals
(www.bluegreenonline.com) Fantastic opportunities for year-round "field trip vacations"!
Contact Laura at 477-1667 or email glebs4@windstream.net or Sherrie at
mismo5@hotmail.com

SHIELD Leadership & Coordinator Panel 2013-2014

Strategy Team Leader	Tracy Taylor	ttaylor24@sc.rr.com	834-0316
Financial/Membership Team Leader	Mandy Dufries	sixdufries@gmail.com	996-1379
Communications Team Leader	Karen Collins	kscollins2@icloud.com	445-6043
Website Coordinator	Jason & Jesseca Bennett	angelmommy2nd@sc.rr.com	407-1697
Student Club Coordinator	Melissa Bryan	smabryan@aol.com	292-7122
Library/Book Sale Coordinator	Jenny Stallings	Jen9874@msn.com	808-5365
Field Day Coordinator	Ellen Nagelvoort	enagelvoort128@gmail.com	960-8312
Field Trip Team Coordinator	Rebecca Becker	jandbbecker@aol.com	785-2237
Academic Presentation Day Coordinators	Jennifer Cogle	coglefour@gmail.com	261-9593
	Carolyn Jackson	imacarolyn@gmail.com	665-5159
THRILL Advisory Panel	Michelle Steyne	mlsteyne@aol.com	796-9090
	Karen Collins	kscollins2@icloud.com	445-6043
Yearbook Advisory Panel	Leah Tilghman (Yearbook Coordinator)	leah.tilghman@gmail.com	920-8475
	Teresa Andrews	tandrews717@yahoo.com	520-7222
	Josie Seacrist	pjseacrist@yahoo.com	957-8707
	Wilenda Turner	wilendasemail@gmail.com	608-8005
	Jessica Sims	jess.sims@gmail.com	996-0609
Standardized Testing Coordinator	Elizabeth Collins	aikosmom@sc.rr.com	356-5858
Talent Showcase Coordinator(s)	Danita Palazzolo Tina Hewitt	ddzolo@sc.rr.com tinahewitt@gmail.com	520-6695
Box Top Coordinators	April Roebuck	roebucks_5@windstream.net	206-0092
	Janey Goude	djgoude@icloud.com	951-0943
Mid-year Meeting Coors.	Darby Reeves	preeves1@sc.rr.com	951-8489
	Leslie Buzzell	jlbuzzell@gmail.com	359-1934
"G.I.F.T". Grace, Inspiration, Friendship, Training	Aimee Kollmansberger	mikeandaimee@juno.com	957-1805
	Linda Barnhill	elbeemee@gmail.com	772-3184
Achievement Night Panel	AN Coordinator Leadership Team	ttaylor24@sc.rr.com	834-0316
	1-11 th Certificates	ttaylor24@sc.rr.com	834-0316
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	Senior Coordinator Linda Barnhill	elbeemee@gmail.com	772-3184

About Our Newsletter...

The SHIELD Encourager Newsletter is published monthly and e-mailed to our members at the beginning of every month (except June & July). If you have an item you would like to submit, contact Karen Collins at kscollins2@icloud.com.