

# 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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Yesterday, I had a chance to listen. I even experienced the gift of being aware that it was a chance and a gift to be able to listen. I wasn't required to respond or have answers or figure out solutions. I just got to listen and I got to know some hearts just a little bit more. I watched beauty unfold and truth win and saw God at work. For a few moments, I was able to revel in the almost incredible gift it was that people would share their lives with me... that God had healed me enough that I could hear them and be present.

It's amazing to consider the gift it is to be able to share life with people and watch God weave tapestries through us all. I hope that my heart and ears will remain open. Maybe you can notice yourself listening today and realize what a gift it truly is.



~devotion by Linda Barnhill

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## “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!



[Tracy Taylor](#) serves SHIELD as Strategy Team Leader. Tracy and her husband James homeschool their daughter Audrey, who is in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Q. How long have you been in SHIELD?**

**A.** *This is our 6<sup>th</sup> year in SHIELD.*

**Q. How long have you been homeschooling?**

**A.** *We have homeschooled from pre-school.*

**Q. What are your favorite SHIELD activities/events?**

**A.** *Probably Achievement Night. I always get choked up watching the Kindergarten graduates march in followed by the Seniors. It is such a sweet picture of homeschooling and a reminder of how quickly the time goes.*

**Q. What is a favorite field trip your family has gone on?**

**A.** *The Barrier Island Eco tour; it was fabulous. I only regret that my husband couldn't join us that day. We will need to do it again when he can participate.*

**Q. What is your dream vacation?**

**A.** *My dream lifestyle is to get rid of everything and live in an RV; it could feel like a vacation everyday and that is a dream! BUT, since no one in my family shares my vision, I will go with...My husband and I both want to take a long enough trip to Italy to be able to see everything we want to see.*

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

**A.** *Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. -Psalm 25:4-5*



## Calendar of Events

<b>April 9-11 (Wed-Fri)</b>	<b>IOWA Standardized Testing</b>
<b>April 18 (Fri)</b>	<b>Informational Meeting for Yearbook</b> , Harvest Church Rock Bldg, 2-3 pm
<b>May 9 (Fri)</b>	<b>Drama Club Presentation</b> , Riverbend Church, 7:00 pm
<b>May 16 (Fri)</b>	<b>Achievement Night</b> , Riverbend Church, Lexington

Field trips are listed on the field trip chart on pages 12.

See below for details on many of these events

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



## STANDARDIZED TESTING

### IOWA Test of Basic Skills

**April 9-11, 2014**

SHIELD offers standardized testing (Iowa Test of Basic Skills) as a service to members by members.

Wed. 4/9	Thurs. 4/10	Fri. 4/11
3rd grade	3rd - 8th grades	3rd - 12th grades

**Registration for testing is now complete.**

**Location:** First Baptist Church of Lexington on Barr Road.

**Time:**

April 9 (Wednesday)	Third Grade Only	9am – 10:30am
April 10 (Thursday)	Third – Eighth	9am-12:30
April 11 (Friday)	Third – Twelfth	3-8 Grade 9am – 1:30; High School 9am-3:00

On Friday, core-only students leave at 10:30 for 3-8 grade; HS at 12:30.

*(ending times are approximate)*

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Collins, SHIELD's Testing Coordinator, at 356-5858 or aikosmom@sc.rr.com.

## Attention All SHIELD Members

### Yearbook Informational Meeting

Friday, April 18 from 2-3 pm  
at the ROCK (Harvest Church)

We will be having an informational meeting for students interested in joining yearbook next school year (2014-2015) **and/or any parent** interested in joining the adult team, YAP (Yearbook Advisory Panel).

Students interested in photography, layout design, art, leadership, computer layout, or scrapbooking might enjoy yearbook. If you're not sure, just come check it out! Parents with similar interests as well as business - ***please come***, we could use you!!

We will have current yearbook students for you to talk to and ask questions. Current YAP Members will also be available to tell you what it's like and answer any questions you may have.

If you or your students have any interest at all, please plan to attend this meeting. We look forward to seeing you!  
(Students must be in 8th grade to join the yearbook staff, so current 7th graders and up are welcome)

If you have any questions, please contact either  
Leah Tilghman [leah.tilghman@gmail.com](mailto:leah.tilghman@gmail.com)  
Josie Seacrist [pjseacrist@yahoo.com](mailto:pjseacrist@yahoo.com)

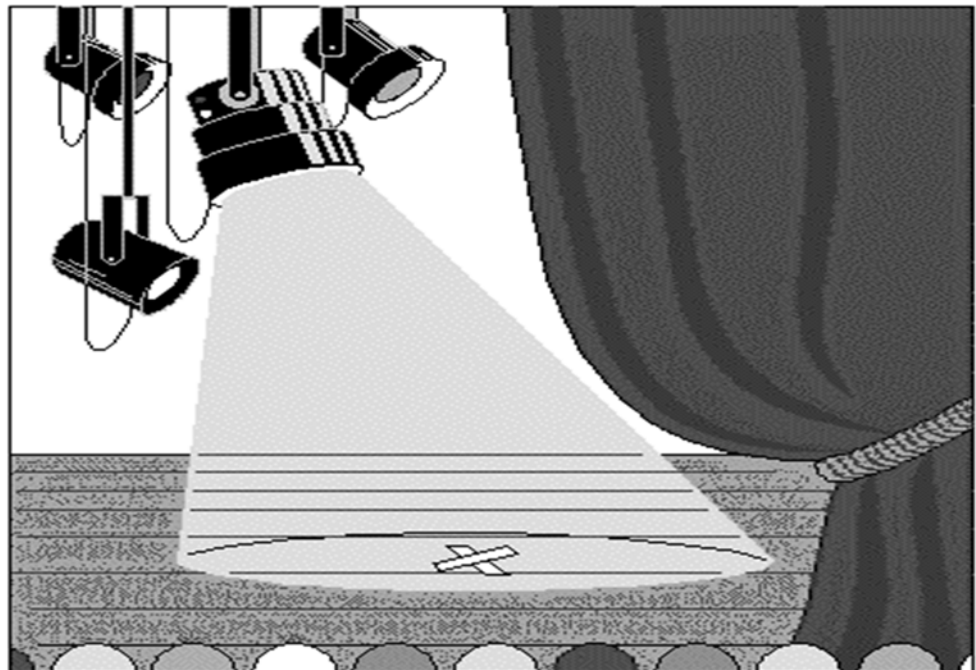
## Drama Club Play

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](mailto:ttaylor24@sc.rr.com).

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



## **YEARBOOK NEWS**

### **Buy a 2014 book**

Have you bought your 2014 SHIELD Yearbook yet?

We have a limited number of books.  
If you haven't bought yours yet, don't wait! They are going fast!

Be sure you get one by pre-ordering.  
The yearbooks are \$30.

To order: send a \$30 check made payable to SHIELD to Josie Seacrist, 1149 Counts Ferry Rd, Lexington, SC 29072

### **Want to join the team?**

If you have an interest in joining the adult yearbook team for 2014-2015 school year, please contact Leah at [leah.tilghman@gmail.com](mailto:leah.tilghman@gmail.com)



# THRILL

Teen Homeschoolers Radically Impacting Lexington County Lives  
Those who serve, lead; and those who lead, serve.  
(8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)

Time to submit volunteer hours!

Our THRILL calendar ends March 31<sup>st</sup> so that volunteer hours can be completed and submitted in time to have certificates and awards for Achievement Night in May. Please finalize hours through March 31 and submit to Karen Collins by April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Details for the end-of-year THRILL party will be coming soon!

For more information or if you have any questions, you can contact:  
Michelle Steyne, [mlsteyne@aol.com](mailto:mlsteyne@aol.com), 796-9090  
Karen Collins, [kscollins2@icloud.com](mailto:kscollins2@icloud.com), 445-6043



## Upcoming SHIELD Field Trips

Field Trip	Date/Time	Coordinator	Ages	Cost
Sesquicentennial State Park - Mammal walk	Wed, April 2 // 10:00-11:30 AM	Shelley Cannon	K5 and older	\$4 per student, parents & siblings free
Wild Reptile Adventure - Red Bank *on-line registration will be available soon	Friday, April 25 //	Christine Bingler	ALL	TBD
Battle for Columbia - Living History and Education Day *registration closed	Friday, May 2 // 9:00 - 2:00 PM	Leslie Ballard	3rd - HS	\$3 per student, parents free, kids 4 and under are free
Saluda Shoals Park - Ropes Course (team building challenge course)	Saturday, May 3 // 1:00 - 4:00 PM	Christine Bingler	5th grade & older (great for HS kids)	\$15.55 per person
Roper Mountain Science Center // Homeschool day <b>No registration needed.</b>	Friday, May 23 // 9:00 - 1:30 PM	Colleen Eubanks	K5-12th grade	TBD // Payment due at the science center. Cash or check only.
Saluda Shoals Park - Canoe Trip *register via e-mail to Sonja	Thurs, May 29 // 9:15 - 11:00 AM	Sonja Sharpe	MS/HS - grades 5-12	\$10 per student & chaperone/ maximum of 20 students
Middleton Place Summerville, SC	TBD	Rebecca Becker		<a href="http://www.middletonplace.org">www.middletonplace.org</a>

Field trip information is subject to adjustments & changes.

**Name of field trip:** **Wild Reptile Adventure**

**Address of event:** Red Bank, SC (exact address to be given later)

**Description of field trip:** Wild Reptile Adventure generally travels to schools, birthday parties, and other events with a variety of reptiles for a hands on educational experience. Tom (the owner and operator) has opened his facility to us so that he can not only let us experience some of the normal reptiles that he travels with, but also some of his larger animals that are too big to go with him (such as larger alligators and even an adult anaconda!). He will also try to have other volunteers on hand who can show us some of the "nitty gritty" when it comes to taking care of reptiles, such as feeding them and keeping their living areas clean.

**Date:** **Friday, April 25th**

**Time of event:** TBD (It will last 1-2 hours.)

**Grade level:** All ages

**Cost:** TBD- E-mail will be sent very soon with more details

\*All people attending this field trip will need to pay due to insurance reasons. Sorry, this includes babies and toddlers. More specific details will be given as soon as possible.

**Payment Info:** Payment will be processed on line.

**Website:** <http://www.wildreptileadventure.com/index.html>

**Coordinator:** Christine Bingler (803)553-5301

[bingler.christine@gmail.com](mailto:bingler.christine@gmail.com)

**Registration:** Online registration will be available for this trip.

**To register:** We will open registration for this trip as soon as remaining details are finalized with the company. An e-mail will be sent out via SHIELD very soon with registration and payment information.

**Name of field trip:** **Saluda Shoals Ropes Course**

**Address of event:** Saluda Shoals Park (5605 Bush River Road, Columbia, 29212)

**Description of field trip:** The Real Team Challenge Course is a low ropes program at Saluda Shoals Park offering a series of physical and mental challenges designed to improve the performance and cohesiveness of a group. This low ropes course is a series of cables, ropes and wooden beams placed among the trees form the elements of a low ropes course. The elements are built close to the ground so the perceived risk is low, but still challenging to complete.

Participants walk tight-ropes, negotiate obstacles, balance elements as a team, pass teammates through a giant web and climb walls. During each element, teams explore risk taking, problem-solving, leadership skills and effective communication and with a strong focus on collaboration.

\*\*Parking at Saluda Shoals is included for non-members of the park. More information will be given later regarding where to meet on the day of the program.

**Date:** **Saturday, May 3**

**Time of event:** 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Grade level:** 5th grade and up (parents are welcome to participate)

**Cost:** \$15.55 per participant (Parents may pay this fee and participate, too, or they may simply watch without paying the fee. This would be a great field trips for dads to attend!)

**Payment Info:** Payment is due online via the link below.

**Website:** <http://www.icrc.net/team-building>

**Coordinator:** Christine Bingler (803)553-5301 or [bingler.christine@gmail.com](mailto:bingler.christine@gmail.com)

**Registration:** Register online by Friday, April 25

**To register:**

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=lbkchtoab&oeidk=a07e945ldls80b5290d>

**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.)

**Name of field trip:** **Saluda Shoals Interpretive Canoe Trip**

**Address of event:** Saluda Shoals Park, 5605 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC 29212

**Description of field trip:** Guided by a Park Ranger, paddle a water trail on the Saluda River and discover the effects of cold water meeting warm water. Explore the “shoals” and understand the unique habitat they form and learn the geologic importance on the “Fall Line”.

**Date:** **Thursday, May 29, 2014**

**Time of event:** 9:30-11am, arrive at 9:15 to check in

**Grade level:** 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Cost:** \$10.35 per student/ chaperone costs-see note below

**Payment Info:** On-line after group is formed; money is not due at this time

**Website:** <http://www/icrc.net/field-trips>

**Coordinator:** Sonja Sharpe // 803-466-3897 // [sonjasharpe1977@gmail.com](mailto:sonjasharpe1977@gmail.com)

**Registration:** Maximum of 20 students. Grades 5-8 will need 1 chaperone per boat (i.e. 2 students with 1 chaperone in 1 boat) and grades 9-12 will need 1 chaperone per 5 students.

Additional Chaperones are \$10 per person.

**To register:** To register for this trip, please send an e-mail to Sonja ([sonjasharpe1977@gmail.com](mailto:sonjasharpe1977@gmail.com)) with the names and grade levels of your children and the heading “Canoe Trip.” Please also include if you would like to chaperone a group. Sonja will keep track of registrations via e-mail until we have enough participants for the trip. We will send you the link to pay on-line once the group is complete.



## 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](mailto:kscollins2@icloud.com).

### Babysitters:

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

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

### Other:

**\*New Listing\*** Irene and Ed Albritton ([aiah5951@hotmail.com](mailto:aiah5951@hotmail.com); [edseditions@sc.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ljaeger156@gmail.com).

Lisa Jaeger, Premier Designs Independent Distributor,  
[lisajaeger.mypremierdesigns.com](http://lisajaeger.mypremierdesigns.com), [ljaeger156@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jessica.smith.nutrition@gmail.com). (803) 996-3631

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

Shelley Cannon - Bee Trail Farm, LLC – we sell local bees and honey! 803.360.7978 [Beetrailfarm@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.etsy.com/shop/PhebeSky?ref=si_shop)

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

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

Rebecca Becker, Thirty-One Gifts Consultant, [www.mythirtyone.com/rbecker](http://www.mythirtyone.com/rbecker), [jandbbecker@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:sally@sallylucashomes.com)  
Michael Lucas, Mortgage Broker with Coldwell Banker Mortgage, 803-315-8880, [michael.lucas@mortgagefamily.com](mailto:michael.lucas@mortgagefamily.com)

Laura Scaggs and Sherrie Morrison (Laura's mom): Bluegreen Resort rentals ([www.bluegreenonline.com](http://www.bluegreenonline.com)) Fantastic opportunities for year-round "field trip vacations"! Contact Laura at 477-1667 or email [glebs4@windstream.net](mailto:glebs4@windstream.net) or Sherrie at [msmo5@hotmail.com](mailto:msmo5@hotmail.com)

## SHIELD Leadership & Coordinator Panel 2013-2014

Strategy Team Leader	Tracy Taylor	<a href="mailto:ttaylor24@sc.rr.com">ttaylor24@sc.rr.com</a>	834-0316
Financial/Membership Team Leader	Mandy Dufries	<a href="mailto:sixdufries@gmail.com">sixdufries@gmail.com</a>	996-1379
Communications Team Leader	Karen Collins	<a href="mailto:kscollins2@icloud.com">kscollins2@icloud.com</a>	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	<a href="mailto:Jen9874@msn.com">Jen9874@msn.com</a>	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	<a href="mailto:mlsteyne@aol.com">mlsteyne@aol.com</a>	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	<a href="mailto:aikosmom@sc.rr.com">aikosmom@sc.rr.com</a>	356-5858
Talent Showcase Coordinator(s)	Danita Palazzolo Tina Hewitt	<a href="mailto:ddzolo@sc.rr.com">ddzolo@sc.rr.com</a> <a href="mailto:tinahewitt@gmail.com">tinahewitt@gmail.com</a>	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	<a href="mailto:preeves1@sc.rr.com">preeves1@sc.rr.com</a>	951-8489
	Leslie Buzzell	<a href="mailto:jlbuzzell@gmail.com">jlbuzzell@gmail.com</a>	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 <sup>th</sup> Certificates	ttaylor24@sc.rr.com	834-0316
	K5 Graduation Holly Winters	hwinters@sc.rr.com	957-8810
	Senior Coordinator Linda Barnhill	elbeemee@gmail.com	772-3184

### About Our Newsletter...

**Newsletter submissions must be received by April 25 for inclusion in the May 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](mailto:kscollins2@icloud.com).