



GOLDEN HORSESHOE DAY 2023

JUNE 13, 2023

WEST VIRGINIA CULTURE CENTER
CAPITOL COMPLEX | CHARLESTON, WV



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2022-2023**

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State Superintendent of Schools
West Virginia Department of Education


GREETINGS

To All Knights of the Golden Horseshoe:

The West Virginia Department of Education congratulates each of you for your distinguished achievement. You have shown amazing dedication and an absolute passion for learning. We honor your accomplishment.

As a Knight of the Golden Horseshoe, you join the elite group of West Virginians that hold key knowledge of our state. You have demonstrated that you have the necessary character and work ethic to represent the Mountain State.

Know that your family and friends are extraordinarily proud of you. Best of luck to you in your future endeavors.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Roach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David L. Roach
West Virginia Superintendent of Schools

GOLDEN HORSESHOE HISTORY

One of the highlights of the eighth-grade year is the opportunity for a student to become a Knight of the Golden Horseshoe Society. This prestigious program takes its name from the golden horseshoes given to the early explorers of West Virginia. In 1716, the Governor of the Virginia colony, Alexander Spotswood, saw the need for exploration of the land west of the Allegheny Mountains, most of which is now West Virginia. The governor organized a party of about 50 men, all of whom adopted the pledge, “Sic jurat transcendere monte,” which means “Thus he swears to cross the mountains.” Governor Spotswood presented each member of his party with a small golden horseshoe to commemorate the bravery of those who crossed the mountains into Western Virginia, beginning the Golden Horseshoe tradition.

This historical tradition was revitalized in the late 1920s. To promote the study of state history, the idea of forming West Virginia clubs was proposed by Phil M. Conley, an editor of *The West Virginia Review*. In late 1929, Mr. Conley took his idea to state Superintendent of Free Schools William C. Cook. Superintendent Cook believed the West Virginia Department of Education should take the lead in promoting a comprehensive study of the state. He proposed expanding Conley’s idea by honoring the highest-achieving students with a state award. In 1930, some 2,736 clubs were organized with more than 48,000 students as members. In the first Golden Horseshoe ceremony, held in 1931, 87 students from 46 counties were honored as Knights of the Golden Horseshoe Society. The Golden Horseshoe became known as a symbol of scholastic achievement to honor students who excel in the study of West Virginia. Since that time, approximately 15,000 eighth grade students have received a golden pin in the shape of a horseshoe, much like those given by Governor Spotswood 300 years ago. The pin symbolizes the student’s knowledge and understanding of his or her state’s proud heritage.

The program of studies in combination with state awards is unique in its statewide recognition of scholastic achievement. Each year approximately 20,000 eighth-grade students spend the school year studying a comprehensive West Virginia curriculum. The curriculum engages students in the intense study of the history, geography, economy, and government of the Mountain State. The primary goal of the program is to promote pride in our state, develop intellectual and participatory skills as well as foster attitudes necessary for students to participate as effective, involved, and responsible citizens. The West Virginia Department of Education, in effect, uses the Golden Horseshoe award to honor “all-state” West Virginia Studies students.



Each year, eighth-grade students are honored for their knowledge of the state in a one-day ceremony held in Charleston. Golden Horseshoe winners have outscored their classmates in county-wide testing competitions that measure their knowledge of West Virginia. A minimum of two students from each county and one student from the West Virginia School for the Deaf and one student from the West Virginia School for the Blind at Romney are selected for the award. The other honorees are selected from the 55 counties based on each county's eighth-grade population.

While in Charleston to celebrate the Golden Horseshoe Day, the honorees are treated to a tour of the Capitol, Capitol Grounds, and the West Virginia State Museum. The high point of the Golden Horseshoe Ceremony is the induction of the students into the Golden Horseshoe Society. The State Superintendent of Schools presides over the induction ceremony. Each student kneels and, with a tap of a sword on the shoulder, is dubbed a Knight of the Golden Horseshoe Society. Each winner is presented a Golden Horseshoe as a time-honored keepsake of the tradition.

GOLDEN HORSESHOE PROGRAM

JUNE 13, 2023

- Opening: Joey Wiseman
Director
Student Enrichment Programs
- Presiding: Dustin Lambert
Social Studies Coordinator
PK-12 Academic Support
- Welcome: David L. Roach
State Superintendent of Schools
West Virginia Department of Education
Additional Greetings from Governor Jim Justice
- Trumpet Fanfare: Mark Hardman, Director
George Washington High School
- Knighting: David L. Roach
- Readers: Gloria Burdette
Coordinator
Student Enrichment Programs
- Susie Garrison
Coordinator
PK-12 Academic Support

GOLDEN HORSESHOE PROGRAM

AGENDA

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Please reference the schedule on the next page for your designated knighting. Shuttle service begins at 7:45 a.m. at Laidley Field.

KNIGHTING ONE

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 8:15 AM | Registration
Culture Center, Building 9
Students and parents will be seated in the theatre. |
| 9:00 AM | Knighting and Induction into the Golden Horseshoe Society |
| 10:30 AM | Optional Capitol Tour — meet behind the Rotunda within the State Capitol (ground floor) |

KNIGHTING TWO

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 10:15 AM | Registration
Culture Center, Building 9
Students and parents will be seated in the theatre. |
| 11:00 AM | Knighting and Induction into the Golden Horseshoe Society |
| 12:30 PM | Optional Capitol Tour — meet behind the Rotunda within the State Capitol (ground floor) |

KNIGHTING THREE

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 12:45 PM | Registration
Culture Center, Building 9
Students and parents will be seated in the theatre. |
| 1:30 PM | Knighting and Induction into the Golden Horseshoe Society |
| 3:00 PM | Optional Capitol Tour — meet behind the Rotunda within the State Capitol (ground floor) |

The last shuttle leaves the Culture Center at 4:15 p.m.

GOLDEN HORSESHOE PROGRAM

CEREMONY ONE 9:00 AM	CEREMONY TWO 11:00 AM	CEREMONY THREE 1:30 PM
Boone	Gilmer	Barbour
Braxton	Greenbrier	Berkeley
Cabell	Mason	Brooke
Calhoun	McDowell	Doddridge
Clay	Mercer	Grant
Fayette	Mingo	Hampshire
Harrison	Monroe	Hancock
Jackson	Nicholas	Hardy
Kanawha	Pleasants	Jefferson
Lewis	Raleigh	Marshall
Lincoln	Randolph	Mineral
Logan	Ritchie	Monongalia
Marion	Summers	Morgan
Putnam	Tyler	Ohio
Roane	Upshur	Pendleton
Wayne	Webster	Pocahontas
Wirt	Wetzel	Preston
	Wood	Taylor
	Wyoming	Tucker
	WV Public Charter Schools	WV Schools for the Deaf & the Blind

GOLDEN HORSESHOE WINNERS

Barbour County

Braydon Clingerman, *Belington Middle School*

Raelynn Mayle, *Philippi Middle School*

Kendra Stalnaker, *Philippi Middle School*

Berkeley County

Emily Davis, *Hedgesville Middle School*

Alex Dell, *Hedgesville Middle School*

Calvin Cushwa, *Martinsburg South Middle School*

Eric Mauzy, *Martinsburg South Middle School*

Jonah Mullenax, *Martinsburg South Middle School*

Evangelian Ortiz, *Mountain Ridge Middle School*

Jackson Allen, *Saint Joseph Parish School*

Tran Dinh, *Saint Joseph Parish School*

Freyja Dreflak, *Saint Joseph Parish School*

Karissa Sood, *Saint Joseph Parish School*

Heidi Gage, *Spring Mills Middle School*

Boone County

Tanner Gibson, *Sherman Junior High School*

Hayden Keith, *Sherman Junior High School*

Makayla Lester, *Sherman Junior High School*

Braxton County

Darren Boggs, *Braxton County Middle School*

Alexandra Branham, *Braxton County Middle School*

Joslynn Wittmer Napier, *Braxton County Middle School*

Brooke County

Jacob High, *Brooke Middle School*

Calliegh Morton, *Brooke Middle School*

Brittnee Stevens, *Brooke Middle School*

GOLDEN HORSESHOE WINNERS

Cabell County

Eli Norris, *Barboursville Middle School*
Parker VanReenan, *Barboursville Middle School*
William Anderson, *Covenant School*
Audrey Stoll, *Covenant School*
Laurel Johnson, *Huntington Middle School*
Henry Riegel, *Huntington Middle School*
Logan Sears, *Milton Middle School*

Calhoun County

Cooper Morris, *Calhoun Middle/High School*
Orion Swearingen, *Calhoun Middle/High School*

Clay County

Jaylyn Holcomb, *Clay Middle School*
Presley Shamblin, *Clay Middle School*
Matthew Wood, *Clay Middle School*

Doddridge County

William Bates, *Doddridge County Middle School*
Nathan Jordan, *Doddridge County Middle School*
Ella Powers, *Doddridge County Middle School*

Fayette County

Savannah Callison, *Midland Trail High School*
Jenna Maynor, *Oak Hill Middle School*
Carson Treadway, *Oak Hill Middle School*
Savannah Zemonek, *Oak Hill Middle School*

GOLDEN HORSESHOE WINNERS

Gilmer County

Michael Holmes, *Gilmer County High School*

Caeleb Pounds, *Gilmer County High School*

Grant County

Sarah Berg, *Petersburg High School*

Reece Sites, *Petersburg High School*

Miley Tingler, *Petersburg High School*

Greenbrier County

Jeb Brown, *Eastern Greenbrier Middle School*

Kennah Collins, *Eastern Greenbrier Middle School*

William Laird, *Eastern Greenbrier Middle School*

Wyatt Smith, *Western Greenbrier Middle School*

Hampshire County

Rachel Chapman, *Capon Bridge Middle School*

Micah Moreland, *Romney Middle School*

Mason Wolford, *Romney Middle School*

Hancock County

Jake Goddard, *Madonna High School*

Mira Jasko, *Madonna High School*

Sophia Soly, *Madonna High School*

Abbigail Hunt, *Weir Middle School*

Hardy County

Jacob Crislip, *Moorefield Middle School*

Sydney Lancaster, *Moorefield Middle School*

Emilie Wilhelm, *Moorefield Middle School*

GOLDEN HORSESHOE WINNERS

Harrison County

Eric Alvarez, *Bridgeport Middle School*
Micah Brittain, *Bridgeport Middle School*
Henry Smith, *Bridgeport Middle School*
Leroy Song, *Bridgeport Middle School*
Seth Nay, *Lincoln Middle School*
Nathaniel Linger, *South Harrison Middle School*
Owen Curtis, *Ravenswood Middle School*

Jackson County

Cora Jean Heilmann, *Ravenswood Middle School*
Mitchell Marra, *Ravenswood Middle School*
Noah Freshour, *Ripley Middle School*

Jefferson County

Ava Brenneke, *Charles Town Middle School*
Megan Caltrider, *Charles Town Middle School*
Ivy Day, *Charles Town Middle School*
Jacob Yohler, *Harpers Ferry Middle School*
Evelyn Bailey, *Shepherdstown Middle School*
Zoe Harper, *Wildwood Middle School*

Kanawha County

Noah Budwany, *Bible Center School*
Katelyn Hentschel, *Charleston Catholic High School*
Patrick Kirby, *Charleston Catholic High School*
Isabelle Paulson, *Charleston Catholic High School*
Braelyn Adkins, *Elkview Middle School*
Lincoln Sodaro, *Elkview Middle School*
Anshuman Haricharan, *John Adams Middle School*
Yevin Ranasinghe, *John Adams Middle School*

GOLDEN HORSESHOE WINNERS

Manvitha Sanjaya, *John Adams Middle School*
Karlle Osborne, *McKinley Middle School*
Kenadie Stanley, *Sissonville Middle School*
Tanner Adkins, *South Charleston Middle School*

Lewis County

James Hovis, *Robert L. Bland Middle School*
Samantha Blake, *St. Patrick School*
Camryn Lambert, *St. Patrick School*

Lincoln County

Elyzabeth Adkins, *Duval PK-8 School*
Landon Adkins, *Hamlin PK-8 School*
Clay Smith, *Hamlin PK-8 School*

Logan County

Megan Brown, *Chapmanville Middle School*
Caroline Simpson, *Chapmanville Middle School*
Aiden Smith, *Chapmanville Middle School*
Robert Christian, *Man Middle School*

Marion County

Ashleigh Waldron, *East Fairmont Middle School*
Cooper Keener, *West Fairmont Middle School*
Alexander Merrifield, *West Fairmont Middle School*
(Ava) Echo Smith, *West Fairmont Middle School*
Julius Zinn, *West Fairmont Middle School*

GOLDEN HORSESHOE WINNERS

Marshall County

John Hall, *Sherrard Middle School*
Allison McGraw, *Sherrard Middle School*
Sarah Naome, *Sherrard Middle School*
Jaylynn Robinson, *Sherrard Middle School*

Mason County

Brayden Collins, *Hannan Junior/Senior High School*
Wesley Hill, *Point Pleasant Junior/Senior High School*
Alexis Miller, *Point Pleasant Junior/Senior High School*
Scottie Snead, *Point Pleasant Junior/Senior High School*

McDowell County

Cecilia Wilson, *Mount View High School*
Turner Addair, *Sandy River Middle School*
Sirius Billips, *Southside K-8 School*

Mercer County

Taleya Crawford-Raines, *Bluefield Middle School*
Titus Holcomb, *Bluefield Middle School*
Alyson Miller, *Bluefield Middle School*
Willis Wilson, *Bluefield Middle School*
Jadalynn Brown, *Glenwood School (K-8)*
Kiley Mullins, *Pikeview Middle School*

Mineral County

John Jackson, *Frankfort Middle School*
Madison Haines, *Keyser Middle School*
Samantha Knotts, *Keyser Middle School*
Carson Paugh, *Keyser Middle School*

GOLDEN HORSESHOE WINNERS

Mingo County

Zachary Stanley, *Burch PK8 School*

Judy Blevins, *Lenore PK8 School*

Payton Johnson, *Matewan PK8 School*

Ashlyn Fouch, *Williamson PK8 School*

Monongalia County

Maxwell Abildso, *South Middle School*

Tyler Kelly, *South Middle School*

William Tapia, *South Middle School*

Shelby Basden, *Suncrest Middle School*

Lucille Dahle, *Suncrest Middle School*

Lorelei Namsupak, *Suncrest Middle School*

Pranav Sure, *Suncrest Middle School*

Monroe County

Kegan Sablack, *Mountain View Elementary & Middle School*

Bridget Brooks, *Peterstown Middle School*

Brayden Fox, *Peterstown Middle School*

Morgan County

Rhaina Botticher, *Warm Springs Middle School*

Jeremiah Clark, *Warm Springs Middle School*

Zachary Stallard, *Warm Springs Middle School*

Nicholas County

Aubree Clark, *Summersville Middle School*

Matilda Rodebaugh, *Summersville Middle School*

Brennon Smith, *Summersville Middle School*

GOLDEN HORSESHOE WINNERS

Ohio County

James Maclay, *Bridge Street Middle School*

Brice Ritchea, *Bridge Street Middle School*

Annabella Blatt, *St. Michaels School*

Lauren Eskins, *Triadelphia Middle School*

Juniper Gandee, *Triadelphia Middle School*

Pendleton County

Alex Adams, *Pendleton County Middle/High School*

Cain Nulph, *Pendleton County Middle/High School*

Pleasants County

Brynnley Bulluck, *Pleasants County Middle School*

Annaliese Lauderman, *Pleasants County Middle School*

Pocahontas County

Thomas Arbogast, *Green Bank Elementary-Middle School*

Baylee Nelson, *Green Bank Elementary-Middle School*

Preston County

Richard Albright, *Aurora School*

Nicholas Bernatowicz, *Central Preston Middle School*

Ty Jenkins, *West Preston School*

Haylie Trenum, *West Preston School*

Putnam County

Lillian Barrett, *Hurricane Middle School*

Benjamin Fuller, *Hurricane Middle School*

Zachary Hodges, *Hurricane Middle School*

Luke Tinnel, *Hurricane Middle School*

Larson Barkey, *Winfield Middle School*

Carter Workman, *Winfield Middle School*

GOLDEN HORSESHOE WINNERS

Raleigh County

Tyler Stover, *Beckley-Stratton Middle School*
Elyssa Woolwine, *Independence Middle School*
Kofi Ackon-annan, *Park Middle School*
Ava Ford, *Park Middle School*
Nicholi Brammer, *Shady Spring Middle School*
Skyler Gibson, *Shady Spring Middle School*
Audrey Justice, *Shady Spring Middle School*

Randolph County

Blake Sears, *Elkins Middle School*
Eliott Talbott, *Elkins Middle School*
Olivia West, *Elkins Middle School*
Noah McAtee, *Tygarts Valley Middle/High School*

Ritchie County

Linhang Chen, *Ritchie County Middle School*
Seth Cronin, *Ritchie County Middle School*
Carson Hall, *Ritchie County Middle School*

Roane County

Dakota Moore, *Spencer Middle School*
Brian Condron, *Walton Elementary/Middle School*
Anna Hays, *Walton Elementary/Middle School*

Summers County

Caden Lasley, *6-12 Summers County Comprehensive High School*
Bayleigh Pack, *6-12 Summers County Comprehensive High School*
Morgan Wood, *6-12 Summers County Comprehensive High School*

GOLDEN HORSESHOE WINNERS

Taylor County

Grant Castle, *Taylor County Middle School*

Jacob Mlinarcik, *Taylor County Middle School*

Noah Smith, *Taylor County Middle School*

Tucker County

Lillian Boyles, *Tucker Valley Elementary Middle School*

Benjamin Gooden, *Tucker Valley Elementary Middle School*

Tyler County

Caleb Gist, *Tyler Consolidated Middle School*

Ralynn Heintzman, *Tyler Consolidated Middle School*

John Mace II, *Tyler Consolidated Middle School*

Upshur County

Landon Beaudry, *Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School*

Johnny Chen, *Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School*

Xavier Robinette, *Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School*

Zethyn Wiseman, *Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School*

Wayne County

Julia Murdock, *Buffalo Middle School*

Alexa Watson, *Buffalo Middle School*

Isabella Stone, *Ceredo-Kenova Middle School*

Hunter Fitch, *Crum Pre K-8 School*

Trenton Waller, *Fort Gay Pre K-8 School*

Webster County

Ryatt Bennett, *Webster County High School*

Natalie Miller, *Webster County High School*

Piper Simmons, *Webster County High School*

GOLDEN HORSESHOE WINNERS

Wetzel County

Logan Morris, *New Martinsville School*

Gavin Wade, *New Martinsville School*

Evan Utt, *Short Line School*

Wirt County

Sophie Awan, *Wirt County Middle School*

Lynsie Perdue, *Wirt County Middle School*

Wood County

Alton Auville, *Blennerhassett Middle School*

Logan Ocurran, *Blennerhassett Middle School*

Olivia Wade, *Blennerhassett Middle School*

Isaac Blair, *Edison Middle School*

Chloe Leshner, *Edison Middle School*

Mariah Garrett, *Jackson Middle School*

Sean Kendall, *Williamstown High School*

Wyoming County

Paisley Shannon, *Huff Cons Elementary & Middle School*

Gabriel Cook, *Pineville Middle School*

Calista Bachert, *Road Branch Elementary & Middle School*

Isaiah Paynter, *Road Branch Elementary & Middle School*

WV Public Charter Schools

Lewis Raeder, *Eastern Panhandle Preparatory Academy*

Ky'Airra Anderson, *West Virginia Virtual Academy*

Kingston Digman, *West Virginia Virtual Academy*

WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

Alyssa Freeland, *West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind*

GOLDEN HORSESHOE WINNERS

Honorary Golden Horseshoe Recipients

Mr. Matthew Umstead
Berkeley County

First Lady Cathy Justice
Greenbrier County

Mr. Pete Arvon
Berkeley County

Mr. Michael Chirico
Wayne County

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Deep appreciation is expressed to the many people and organizations who have worked to make Golden Horseshoe Day a success.

Chairpersons

Joey Wiseman

Director, Student Enrichment Programs

Dustin Lambert

Coordinator, PK-12 Academic Support

Assistant Chairperson

Jennie Gill

Secretary, Student Enrichment Programs

Golden Horseshoe Knighting Bench Design/ Fabrication Contest Winner

Cabell County Career Technical Center

BENCH DESIGN

Austin Morrison

Marin Wickline

Bench Fabrication Artisans

Caden Stephens

Sam Board

Alex Stephens

Katherine Wilson

Kylee Call

Austin Shoemaker

Carsyn Ward

Kane Ray

Joey Jones

Nick Prichard

Laiken Brotherton

Hunter Huff

SPECIAL THANKS

West Virginia Governor Jim Justice

West Virginia First Lady Cathy Justice

West Virginia Board of Education

West Virginia Department of Education

Office of the State Superintendent

Communications

Office of Instructional Leadership and School Improvement

Student Enrichment Programs

PK-12 Academic Support

Office of Technical and Adult Education

West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture, & History

West Virginia Public Broadcasting

AUTOGRAPHS



#WVGOLDENHORSESHOE



David L. Roach
West Virginia Superintendent of Schools