

Yadkin County Motto Contest Call for Entries

Background:

In 1673, Abraham Wood, a prominent trader in Petersburg, Virginia sent a scouting party to explore the backcountry for additional trade routes. After a 9-day journey south and west, James Needham and Gabriel Arthur discovered the Great Smoky Mountains. On June 18 of the same year, Arthur reported that he and his party had reached Yattken Town at Yattken River. Though not absolutely known, it is believed that Yattken (now Yadkin) is a Siouan Indian word that means “big tree” or “place of big trees.”

The estimated Indian population in the state of North Carolina in the year 1600 was Cherokees, 6,000; Cheraw, 1,200; Keyauwee, 500; and Catawba, including Sugeree and Waxhaw, 5,000. The Catawba tribe claimed all of the Catawba Valley from its headwaters into South Carolina. The Indians of this era were farmers and hunters. Evidence of their existence remain today; particularly in the Donnahaha area of Yadkin County. Fish-falls constructed by the Indians may still be found in the Yadkin River.

The first white settlers of Yadkin County were Morgan Bryan and George Forbush. In 1748, Morgan Bryan moved his large family to the south bank of Deep Creek about 5 miles above Shallow Ford. In 1850, land was divided from Surry County along the Yadkin River on the north and east to form Yadkin County.

From its origin, Yadkin County has been a farming community with tobacco as the primary cash crop. As tobacco use has steadily declined, production of other crops; primarily grapes for wine-making, has erupted throughout Yadkin County and the surrounding valley. There are currently 13 wineries in Yadkin County that serve as the epicenter of County tourism. While Yadkin County’s heritage lies in agriculture and the County remains primarily rural in character, today the county combines a farming economy with growing industrial development. Industrial growth was slow in coming to Yadkin due to the decision in 1871, 1885, and again in 1908 not allowing the railroad into the County. Highway infrastructure later allowed growth to take place and now Yadkin County has a healthy mix of manufacturing operations. Unifi, Inc. is the county's largest firm. Plastics, metalworking, and insulation for the automotive industry add to the manufacturing base. In 1993, the Phillips-Van Heusen Apparel Group completed a 440,000 square foot "state of the art" distribution facility in Yadkin County to create further diversity for employees, and Unifi, Inc. began operation of a yarn spinning facility just outside Yadkinville in 1998. Blue Rhino Corporation completed construction of a facility to refurbish and refill propane cylinders in the Hamptonville area in 2000. Water and sewer lines have further strengthened the infrastructure of the County. The 5D Reservoir, a project 50 years in the making, is complete and beginning to fill. The reservoir will provide flood control, water supply, and recreation. Science wings were added to the County high schools and new middle schools have been constructed. The County has an agreement in place with CAH Consolidated for a new hospital within the next 5 years. Interstate 77 and Highway 421 provide prime trade routes through the piedmont of North Carolina. Yadkin County is located only 45 minutes from the international airport and one of the largest FedEx hubs.

In the mid 1970s, Jimmy Hutchens, a local economic development leader, began using the motto “Progress through Past Experience.” Though there is no record of this motto being officially adopted, it found its way to County correspondence, documents, and letterhead. This has been the accepted motto for Yadkin County since that time.

Objectives:

The Yadkin County Board of Commissioners would like to adopt a new motto for Yadkin County that honors its past, acknowledges its present, and anticipates its future.

Eligibility:

The contest is open to residents of Yadkin County. All eligible participants must be 18 years of age or older. Current employees of Yadkin County may not participate.

Contest Dates:

The contest is open from 12:01am August 2, 2010 through 12:00am September 17, 2010. No entries will be accepted after the deadline. The winner will be announced on October 18, 2010 at the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners Meeting.

Entry Rules and Conditions:

1. Must be 18 years of age or older
2. One motto per entry. There is no limit on the number of entries per individual.
3. No more than 10 words in length.
4. The entry must be legible, meet the objectives as outlined, be easy to understand, and appeal to a wide audience.
5. The motto must be original, never published, and never submitted to any other contest.
6. Motto entries will not be returned. The selected motto will become the property and/or copyright of Yadkin County.

Send entries to:

Yadkin County Manager's Office
Attention: Motto Contest
PO Box 146
Yadkinville, NC 27055
Telephone: 336-679-4200
Fax: 336-679-6005

Entries Must Include:

Name
Birthdate
Address
City, State, and Zip
Daytime Phone
Evening Phone

Winner Selection and Prize:

**Winner will be selected by a selection committee.
The citizen whose entry is selected will win \$500.**

You may also visit our website at www.yadkincountync.gov