



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF TOPSAIL ISLAND

Mission Statement

The Historical Society of Topsail Island is dedicated to the collection, preservation, and promotion of the history of the Greater Topsail Island Area.

Preserving the Past, Enjoying the Present, Building the Future

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For Immediate Release:

Historical Society of Topsail Island Awards 2024 Scholarships

TOPSAIL BEACH NC– For almost thirty years, the Historical Society of Topsail Island (HSTI) has awarded scholarships to area high school graduating seniors. This year, the HSTI awarded four scholarships at the annual scholarship luncheon on April 11th. The scholarships ranged in value from three to six thousand dollars.

The following 2024 scholarship recipients are students from schools in Onslow and Pender County.

- Gabriella Colón is a student at Early Pender High School. Her essay was entitled, *Rosenwald Schools in Pender County*.
- Lillian Padgett from Topsail High School wrote her winning essay about an astronaut, *Christina Hammock Koch*, who grew up in Jacksonville, N.C.
- Lillian Swan, also from Topsail High School is a scholarship recipient for her essay, *A New Road to Peace* about the Moores Creek Battlefield.
- McKenzie Tomlinson, from Dixon High School, received a scholarship for her essay about *The History of the Rosenwald Schools of Pender County*.

“The Historical Society of Topsail Island is proud to provide scholarships to local high school students each year to support their educational journeys,” said Karen Gavigan, Chairman of the HSTI Education Committee. “Our scholarship recipients are selected based on academic achievement, community involvement, and extracurricular activities. The HSTI is pleased to honor this year’s four outstanding students.”

The students made presentations about their essays at the awards luncheon. Attending the luncheon in addition to HSTI members, the scholarship recipients, and their family members were Topsail High School (THS) counselors Celina McGee, and Sheila Sheats, THS Scholarship Coordinator, Jonathan Buchanan; Dixon High School (DHS) counselor Yulissa Balsamo, DHS Principal Curtis Ehmann, Pender Early College (PEC) counselor Abby Robbins, and Shannon Grable, PEC Career Development Coordinator.

For more information about the Historical Society of Topsail Island, or the Missiles & More Museum, visit <https://topsailhistoricalsociety.org/> <https://missilesandmoremuseum.org/> Follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

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Photo credit Stephanie Key, Assistant, Pender County Tourism.

Pictured l-r are the scholarship recipients: Lillian Padgett, McKenzie Tomlinson, Lillian Swan, and Gabriella Colón.