

# National 4-H Hall of Fame 2019

## Arizona



### Bill Peterson

Arizona Assistant Director, 4-H Youth Development

Hometown: Cromwell, MN

Nominated by: Arizona 4-H

### Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Active in a rural Minnesota 4-H club. 4-H agent in Wisconsin, county director in Minnesota, Montana Western Region Supervisor, and State Leader in Colorado and Arizona. Led the effort in developing the National 4-H Strategic Directions Council and some of the first national research projects about Essential Elements for Positive Youth Development and measuring the impact of the 4-H program.

Honors: NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award. Arizona 4-H Hall of Fame. Charter Member, US/Japan Exchange. Chair, International 4-H Programs Committee

### Biography:

Bill was active in a rural Minnesota 4-H club and continued to be dedicated to 4-H throughout his 32 year career. As an agent in Wisconsin, a county director in Minnesota, Montana Western Region Supervisor, and State Leader in Colorado and Arizona, his efforts on behalf of youth remained steady. In the 4-H Strategic Planning Council, he led the effort in developing the National 4-H Strategic Directions Council, and some of the first national research projects about Essential Elements for Positive Youth Development and measuring the impact of the 4-H program. He became a prime mover in establishing the UA Institute of Children, Youth and Families and led the first efforts in Volunteer Certification and Club financial accountability.

As State Leader in Colorado and Arizona, Bill was active in the Western Region, including development of the Western Marketing Initiative that produced volunteer recruitment materials used all over the country. Bill promoted the statewide 4-H Program in Character Education in Arizona and worked to acquire over \$1 million in grants and gifts to develop programs for the Arizona Department of Education, Department of Economic Security as well as all 4-H programs in the state. In Colorado and Arizona, he led the organization of International Exchanges with Japan and set up policies and procedures for the continued funding of these programs.

### Quote:

By the time Bill started working for Arizona 4-H, he had already served as a county agent, a 4-H Specialist, and State 4-H Leader in other states. He had also grown up as a 4-H member in Minnesota. In his early years as a specialist he was responsible for expanding programs to new audiences. He saw the big picture of the impact 4-H could have on ALL youth regardless of where they lived -- farm or suburb, reservation or innercity high rise. Few people have had such an outpouring of love and respect from colleagues across the country and the world, as well as from members and volunteers. We were blessed to have him as our friend and advisor who consistently pushed us ever so gently to 'Make the Best Better.' " - Jan L. Norquest, Arizona 4-H Agent



Bill with Tetsu and Fuku Miyazaki and Julie Adamcin at the Miyazaki home.



Bill visits his 4-H leader, Eva Alberg, who was named to Minnesota's 4-H Hall of Fame