

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2017

Connecticut



Elsie Woolam
4-H Volunteer

Home: South Windsor, CT

Nominated by: Connecticut 4-H

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

4-H member in Hartford County where she was active with a variety of animal projects along with clothing and dress revue. Began volunteer work with 4-H in 1955. Active on many county and statewide committees as well as the leader of four separate 4-H clubs. Recipient of the CT 4-H Alumni Award, the CT 4-H Leadership Award, and the Hartford County Honor 4-H Family Award. She and her husband were instrumental in the fund raising, purchase and construction of the Hartford County 4-H Camp and growing the Camp's endowment and expanding the camp property. Served as volunteer staff member and Camp Director at the Camp for many years. Expanded the Camp from a 3 to 8 week program.

Biography:

Elsie's dedication to the Connecticut 4-H program began 65 years ago as a 4-H member in Hartford County where she was active with a variety of animal projects along with clothing and dress revue. She began volunteering in 1955 where she was active on many Hartford County committees planning Favorite Foods shows, Clothing Revues, awards programs and interstate exchanges and many statewide activities. She was the leader of four separate 4-H clubs and has been active with the Hartford County 4-H Fair for over 30 years. Elsie is most well known for her work with the Hartford County 4-H Camp in Marlborough, CT.

Elsie and her husband, Dick, were part of a group of dedicated volunteers who spearheaded the purchase of land in Marlborough for a 4-H Camp, raising funds to build it and overseeing the construction. Since the Camp opening in 1966, Elsie has dedicated her time and energy to providing memorable overnight camping experiences to thousands of youth. She has impacted the lives of over 55,000 youth and counselors through the Hartford County 4-H Camp. When the Camp opened she began as a volunteer staff member and then moved into the role of Camp Director. She continues to be involved in all aspects of the Camp's operation and mentoring staff and directors giving them the knowledge, guidance and confidence to run a very successful summer camping program.

Quote:

My relationship with 4-H began as a young teen. Little did I know that over my lifetime local, state and national 4-H events would help create lasting friendships with generations of families that included staff from at least a dozen foreign countries. Teaching, demonstrating, solving problems, and chaperoning were a huge part of working with all 4-Hers.



Elsie stands with her prize winning beef project.



Elsie and her husband Dick were instrumental in establishment of the Hartford County 4-H Camp.



Elsie tends to roses in the garden.