

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2015

Delaware



Ruth Ann Messick

Kent County 4-H Leader, Link and Alumni

Home: Farmington, DE

Nominated by: Delaware 4-H

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

In 1963, organized along with her husband the Peach Blossom 4-H Club in rural Farmington, Delaware. Over 40 years of service in leadership roles as a Kent County leader, Link and 4-H alumni. A founding member of the Kent County 4-H Basket Auction, which has raised thousands of dollars for the Delaware 4-H Foundation.

Honors: Salute to Excellence Lifetime 4-H Volunteer Award in 2001, the Jefferson Award for Volunteer Service and the Joy Sparks Spirit of 4-H Award. Mr. & Mrs. Messick were inducted to the Delaware 4-H Hall of Fame.

Biography:

Ruth Ann Messick organized and was leader of the Peach Blossom 4-H Club in Kent County for over 40 years. The club focused on citizenship, leadership and community service, all important aspects of her life. The club produced nearly 1,500 Delaware 4-H alumni with 27 members named as National Club Congress Winners. Ruth Ann served as chairperson of Adopt A Road, Beach Clean Up, local parades and food booths. She was founding member of the Kent County 4-H Basket Auction, which has raised thousands of dollars for the Delaware 4-H Foundation. She attended numerous Regional and Delaware state leader forums. Her three daughters, Rebecca, Rita and Rochelle became active Delaware 4-Hers, Leaders and Links.

In her community, Ruth Ann served over 40 years as the Brethren Church treasurer. She served as President and lifetime member of the Farmington Ladies Auxiliary and serves on the executive board of the Greenwood Alumni Association. Her love of Delaware and national politics has given her roles as Kent County Democratic Committee chairperson - she is well known to every political figure of note. Each visitor to the Messick home gets to visit the 4-H museum in their basement that promotes and showcases Delaware 4-H history and club memorabilia. She continues today, at age 84, to support the Kent County Link and 4-H activities, watching great-grandchildren in 4-H events and promoting 4-H to anyone she visits with during her day!

Quote:

Ruth Ann is not only an excellent role model for 4-H members, but she also sets the bar very high for other 4-H volunteers in Delaware. She always goes well beyond what is expected and the standards in her 4-H life and personal life are a beacon for all who know her. To say she "bleeds green" would be an understatement as she continues to live by the 4-H Motto of "Making the Best Better" and she has definitely done this for the Delaware 4-H program!

- Doug Crouse, Delaware State Interim 4-H Program Leader



Ruth Ann accepts the Lifetime 4-H Volunteer Award in 2001.



Ruth Ann receives the Joy Sparks Spirit of 4-H Award in 2010.



Ruth Ann discusses 4-H activities with U.S. Senator Chris Coons at the 2011 Delaware 4-H Leader Forum.