

# National 4-H Hall of Fame 2015

## Idaho



**Mary Jean Craig**  
Idaho 4-H Extension Associate

Home: Moscow, ID

Nominated by: Idaho 4-H

### Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Eleven year Washington 4-H member in clothing, foods, child care, photography and leadership. Collegiate 4-H member. Volunteer leader 33 years in Cloverbuds, sewing, quilting, photography, scrapbooking. Latah Co. 4-H Extension Educator, 1979-82. Clearwater Co. Extension Educator, 1982-87, Idaho State Extension Associate, 4-H/Youth, 1987-2009. IAE4-HA 1979-2009, president, vice-president, secretary. NAE4-HA 1979-present. PR&I Committee 1998-present. Co-chair National 4-H Hall of Fame Task Force 2001-03.

**Honors:** National 4-H Congress and Scholarship winner, 1963; Outstanding Univ. of Idaho Employee, 1995; Idaho 4-H Century Family, 2012; Idaho 4-H Hall of Fame, 2014. NAE4-HA DSA, 1992; 25-Year Service Award, 2005; MSA, 2008.

### Biography:

Mary Jean Craig was an 11 year 4-H member and a 33 year volunteer leader. Four generations of her family were involved in 4-H and were recognized as an Idaho 4-H Centennial Family with 138 years of involvement. Mary Jean began her Extension career in 1979, serving as Extension Educator in Latah and Clearwater Counties. In 1987, she transitioned to the Univ. of Idaho State 4-H Office. She developed a statewide Know Your Government Conference for 8th and 9th grade youth and coordinated this event from 1987 until she retired in 2009. The KYG program received recognition as NAE4-HA national winner for 'Search for Excellence in Teen Programming' in 1992 and 'Power of Youth' award in 2003.

Mary Jean co-coordinated ID 4-H Teen Conference and coordinated the ID delegations to regional and national 4-H Events for 23 years. She proposed and later coordinated the ID 4-H Endowment college scholarship program. She was the office historian, maintaining a database of Idaho participants in state, regional and national 4-H events. Mary Jean was an IAE4-HA officer and committee chair. In 2002 she was instrumental in creating the National 4-H Hall of Fame and still serves on that NAE4-HA committee. Mary Jean helped start the Idaho 4-H Hall of Fame, into which she was inducted in 2014. She has taught Sunday School for 30 years, is active in the Palouse Patchers quilt guild, serving as vice-president and quilt show chair.

### Quote:

4-H taught me many skills, including public speaking, and led to my career in Extension. Over the years I have enjoyed watching 4-H members grow from that timid demonstrator to the accomplished public speaker serving as an officer at a statewide event.

One of the highlights of my career was coordinating the first National 4-H Hall of Fame Induction and getting to meet so many people important to the establishment and continuation of the 4-H program. I am honored to join the ranks of those pioneers and giants of 4-H that I admired as a member and 4-H professional.



Mary Jean and the 1989 Idaho 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus delegation with an Idaho Representative.



Mary Jean and some youth members of the planning committee at the 1995 Idaho 4-H Know Your Government Conference.



Mary Jean being congratulated at the 1963 National 4-H Congress