

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2018

Montana



Betty McCoy
State 4-H Program Leader

Home: Belt, MT Email: betty.mccoy@yahoo.com Nominated by: Montana 4-H

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

10 year 4-H member; colligate 4-H member. IFYE to Venezuela. BS & MS, Montana State University. Montana State University County Extension Agent; Assistant Professor, School of Home Economics, State 4-H Specialist & State 4-H Program Leader. Member, IFYE Alumni Association; State & National 4-H Associations; State & National Extension Associations. Member, Executive Development Institute, National 4-H Council Board of Trustees. International Programs Chair-National Japanese Exchanges.

Honors: Air Force American Spirit Award, ESP Distinguished Service Award, IFYE Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award, MT 4-H Distinguished Service Award, Silver Buffalo-Distinguished Service Award, MT Extension, MT 4-H Hall of Fame.

Biography:

Betty first went to club meetings with her older sister, became a 4-H member herself, a college 4-H'er, and then chose a career in the Extension Service. Betty did her student teaching in a junior high school which left her saying "there must be a better way to make a living than this" She applied to the Montana Extension service and was hired as a County Extension Agent. Surprise! Those same junior high kids were so much fun to have involved in 4-H. After completing her Master's degree, she was hired as a State 4-H Specialist where the art of working with volunteers became her central focus. Believing volunteers can do any assignment if given the necessary tools, she helped salaried staff develop skills to work effectively with volunteers.

Betty's next goal was to involve youth as resources in the program. As State 4-H Program Leader, She worked to provide an atmosphere in which staff, volunteers and youth formed active partnerships. Also, under her leadership, the 4-H Center for Youth Development was established at Montana State University. Lastly, her passion for international experiences resulted from being an IFYE delegate to Venezuela. She believes it is especially important for youth and families from rural states such as Montana to have ways to broaden their thinking and experiences so 4-H continues to maintain its rich history of offering international opportunities to youth, families, and extension staff.

Quote:

A friend of mine said that 4-H is all about experiences and relationships. Over the many years of being involved with 4-H, I've come to see the wisdom of that simple statement. The club is the classroom where skills are learned and the projects are the laboratories where they are developed and practiced. The activities and events associated with 4-H are extra-curricular opportunities allowing for skills to be tested and sharpened into habits. What a wonderful educational model!



Experiencing the culture in Australia while chaperoning 4-Hers.



Meeting with a language club in Japan while serving as the National Japanese Exchange Chair.



Learning the culture of Scotland while at the European IFYE Conference.