

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2013

National 4-H Council



Raymond C. Firestone

Chairman and Chief Executive, Firestone Tire and Rubber Company

Hometown: Akron, OH

Nominated by: National 4-H Council

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

President of Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. from 1957 to 1964, chief executive from 1963 to 1973, and chairman from 1966 to 1976. Changed company sponsorship from soil and water conservation to the new 4-H Automotive Care and Safety Program in 1960. Served on the National 4-H Service Committee Board of Directors from 1953 to 1976 and was Vice Chairman for several years. Supported company's financial contribution to the National 4-H Center expansion in the early 1970s, which included Firestone Hall. Established Raymond C. Firestone 4-H Leadership Fund at National 4-H Council, support continues from his estate.

Biography:

Raymond C. Firestone was a son of Harvey S. Firestone, who founded the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in 1900. He went to work for the company in 1933 and was president from 1957 to 1964, chief executive from 1963 to 1973, and chairman from 1966 to 1976. Firestone Company initially funded the Soil and Water Conservation Awards program, but Raymond's presidency Firestone changed their sponsorship to the 4-H Automotive Care and Safety Program when initiated in 1960. Firestone supported county award medals, trips to National 4-H Congress and national scholarships and paid developmental costs for automotive member manuals, leader guides, slides sets and films, and sponsored automotive safety events.

Raymond served on the National 4-H Service Committee Board of Directors from 1953 to 1976 and was Vice Chairman for several years. He was the prime impetus behind the company's financial contribution to the National 4-H Center expansion in the early 1970s. This included Firestone Hall, one of the expanded dormitories on the renovated campus. His personal commitment to 4-H is further exemplified by the creation of and contribution to the Raymond C. Firestone 4-H Leadership Fund at National 4-H Council, which promotes the advancement of 4-H citizenship and leadership activities around the country. His estate continues to support this fund.

Quote:

4-H believes in competition, and while rewarding outstanding accomplishment, it also teaches that one should accept defeat gracefully and profit by mistakes. No other organization provides a better training ground for democratic processes, or a better appreciation of our free enterprise system.

- Raymond C. Firestone at National 4-H Club Congress, 1967

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Larry Krug

Director of Strategic Partnerships, National 4-H Council

Hometown: Rockford, IL

Nominated by: National 4-H Council

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Directed radio/television support for National 4-H Congress, National 4-H Week, 4-H Report to the Nation; coordinated production of over 500 nationally produced program manuals and A/V materials; designed and implemented a distribution and marketing system for 4-H television series; coordinating with 4-H, USDA, obtained a multi-million dollar grant from DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund for Extension's Youth at Risk Initiative and established partnerships with 26 federal departments and agencies; currently serving as a volunteer as vice chair of the National 4-H History Preservation program.

Honors: Illinois State 4-H Outstanding Member. NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award.

Biography:

Larry Krug was an 8-year 4-H member in Winnebago Co., IL. After receiving an agricultural journalism degree at Univ. of Wisconsin in 1961, he was hired as Univ. of Tennessee Extension Information Specialist. Krug joined the National 4-H Service Committee staff in Chicago in 1965, transitioning to National 4-H Council in 1978. During 28 years at Council, Krug served as radio-television specialist; Executive Editor of National 4-H News, the national 4-H leaders magazine; Manager of Educational Aids and Publications; Director of the Communications Division including Corporate Communications, Media Services, National 4-H News, Educational Aids and Publications and the National 4-H Resource Center.

Larry directed radio/television support for National 4-H Congress, National 4-H Week, 4-H Report to the Nation; coordinated production of over 500 national program materials; designed and implemented a distribution and marketing system for 4-H television series; in coordination with 4-H, USDA, obtained a multi-million dollar DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund grant for Extension's Youth at Risk Initiative and established partnerships with 26 federal departments and agencies. His last Council position was Director of Strategic Partnerships, developing liaisons with other youth-serving organizations, building coalitions and strengthening cultural diversity and supporting opportunities for 4-H youth and their families.

Quote:

My major 4-H project was in an area I knew absolutely nothing about... raising and carrying for sheep. I quickly came to realize that the 4-H slogan, "Learn by Doing" had real meaning; and, it has been a useful guide throughout my life. 4-H teaches practical, hands-on education, preparing girls and boys to better face the challenges of today and the future. That time-honored phrase, "Learn by Doing" - direct, yet so simple - should always be a part of 4-H.



Larry's major 4-H project was Shropshire sheep (1950).



Escorting 4-H Report to the Nation team to Ed Sullivan Show in NYC (1969).



Making a presentation on the National 4-H History Preservation Program in 2010.

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Myrtle R. Norton Walgreen
Co-founder of Walgreen Drug Stores

Home: Carbondale, IL

Nominated by: National 4-H Council

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Often called the co-founder of Walgreen Drug Stores. Born in Carbondale, IL in June, 1879. Married Charles Walgreen in 1902. First woman to serve on the National 4-H Service Committee Board and the first individual to finance an awards program in a national 4-H project area - Beautification of Home Grounds. Elected to the National 4-H Service Committee Board in 1958. Awarded the National 4-H Donor Merit Award for 25 years of personal support in 1962. Began underwriting in the 1960s the cost of producing a complimentary set of colored slides of National 4-H Congress each year, supplying sets to every state. Never a dull day, her autobiography as told to Margueritte Harmon Bro, published in 1963.

Biography:

Myrtle Walgreen, often called the co-founder of Walgreen Drug Stores, was born in Carbondale, IL in 1879. She married Charles Walgreen in 1902. He opened his first store in 1901, and they established the C. R. Walgreen and Co. in 1909. It is now the nation's largest drug store chain with over 8,000 stores. Walgreen's pioneered open-shelf merchandising, popularized the in-store lunch counter, and in 1992 debuted "drive thru pharmacy". Mrs. Walgreen was a pioneer in 4-H support as the first woman to serve on the National 4-H Service Committee Board and the first individual to finance an awards program in a national 4-H project area. She said when she was widowed in 1939, "one thing I put my heart into was my 4-H Club responsibilities."

Mrs. Walgreen personally sponsored the Beautification of Home Grounds 4-H project from 1937 to 1962, served on the Board of Trustees of Shimer College from 1943 to 1955, and was elected to the National 4-H Service Committee Board in 1958. In 1962, the 4-H Service Committee President Chris Christensen presented Mrs. Walgreen with the National 4-H Donor Merit Award for her 25 years of personal support. She attended National 4-H Congress annually well into her 90s and delighted in engaging "her" winners. In the 1960s she began underwriting the cost of producing a complimentary set of colored slides of National 4-H Congress each year, supplying sets to every state - an outgrowth of her recently-found avocation of photography.

Quote:

"One day in 1932, I got a letter from Washington informing me I'd been elected to the National 4-H Service Committee. For goodness sakes, I thought, what could I do that [my friend] Mary [Dynes] wasn't already doing? I went to the phone and called her. 'All you have to do is say yes' she said. 'They told me if I ever found a woman who would fit into the work of our National Committee, I should suggest her name. I found her and suggested her and you were voted in. We're the only women.' Now I was a 4-H'er!"

- Myrtle Walgreen in her autobiography Never a dull day