

4-H National Headquarters, NIFA – 2012



Lloyd Rutledge

National Community Development Program Leader, USDA

4-H Activities: 1948-79 positions: Arkansas State 4-H staff; National 4-H Director, Southern Region; National Community Development Program Leader, USDA. Inaugurated the Southern Region State 4-H Leaders Conferences and the Triennial Conferences of Southern Directors. One of three national staff appointed for integrating Black and White Extension programs in the southern states after 1965 Civil Rights legislation. National development of urban 4-H under community development legislation in the 1970's.

Honors: NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award, 1979. Commendations for inaugurating the Southern Region State 4-H Leaders Conferences (1949) and the Triennial Conferences of Southern Directors (1957)

Home: Alexandria, VA
Nominated by: 4-H National
Headquarters, NIFA
Year Inducted: 2012

Lloyd Rutledge began his 4-H career in 1948 when he joined the Arkansas State 4-H staff. After a few years he went to USDA to serve as National 4-H Director of the Southern Region. He inaugurated the Southern Region State 4-H Leaders Conferences in 1949 and the Triennial Conferences of Southern Directors in 1957. After passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, Rutledge was one of three national staff appointed to lead the integration of Extension programs throughout the southern states. He later became

National Community Development Program Leader and led national development of urban 4-H programs under community development legislation in the early 1970's.

Lloyd held degrees from the University of Arkansas and University of Missouri and a doctorate earned in 1971 from North Carolina State University. He carried his lifelong faith in developing and supporting young people from his youth during the Great Depression into an active retirement. He taught gardening skills to disabled teens and, until he was 93, delivered fresh farmers market food to a shelter for battered women and children. Rutledge embodied service to others through the four "H's" - head, heart, hands, and health. He passed away in May 2012, soon after learning of his selection to the National 4-H Hall of Fame.

Quote: Dr. Rutledge's belief in the potential of educated youth was expressed in years of working directly with young people in Arkansas, then, both from Arkansas and national 4-H staff positions, through creation of forums for 4-H staff collaboration and sharing of what we now call "best practices" throughout the South. After the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Dr. Rutledge modeled "servant leadership" as he collaborated across races to bring together segregated staffs in the Southern Region. He extended 4-H's reach through program development for urban 4-H in the 70's. Dr. Rutledge embodied service to others through the four "H's" - head, heart, hands, and health.

- Daughters June Rutledge Heintz & Merryn Rutledge

4-H National Headquarters, NIFA – 2012



Hometown: Middletown, CT
Nominated by: 4-H National Headquarters, NIFA
Year Inducted: 2012

had teens help with projects, opening their eyes to the needs of the community. Joel asked, "How many kids can we reach with this program? See how little funding we can turn into great experiences..." The program reached 20,000 4-H'ers annually

In the early 1970s. Joel worked with the USDA leadership for expanding programs with disadvantaged audiences. He later became responsible for the Urban 4-H Expansion, resulting in significant increase in 4-H enrollment. As a national 4-H program leader for 4-H resource development, staff development and training, Joel was able to expand 4-H's role in International development. In 1994, he became the Associate Director, Modernization of Administrative Practices, Organizational Development, and Change Management at USDA. Joel traveled to 60 countries with his wife, Cassandra, during his USDA career. In retirement Joel continues to give to 4-H. He serves on the Lee Co. Florida 4-H Foundation Board.

Quote: Dr. Soobitsky is being honored for his vision, execution, competency, and enthusiasm: in bringing 4-H Youth programs to urban areas; building national and international collaborations, and strengthened relationships between youth serving organizations. He created a national database on youth development education, provided support for doctoral students, and designed creative processes and training to serve more 4-H Youth, volunteer leaders and professionals. He lives and breathes 4-H and its ability as a program to develop youth and volunteer leaders. His enthusiasm and creativity never stop.

- Linda Nierman, PhD, Michigan State University Extension, Retired



Joel and Cassandra touring Italy. They visited 60 countries and hosted colleagues from throughout the world.



Joel and 4-H leader Everett Kensel admiring one of Joel's prize chickens (1955).



Joel receiving Connecticut flag from Gov. Ribicoff for National 4-H Conference (1959).