

# National 4-H Hall of Fame 2014

## New Jersey



**Roger Barr**  
4-H Agent, Bergen County

Home: Paterson, NJ

Nominated by: New Jersey 4-H

### Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Became Bergen Co. 4-H Agent in 1961. Increased 4-H clubs 15-65, leaders 25-251, and members 325-1,500 while reaching 3,000 youth annually. Created educational materials for horse and small animal projects, a special interest ecology camp, and dog camps that developed into a statewide Seeing Eye Dog camp. Developed quiz bowls for many small animals and the New Jersey Quiz Bowl about state history.

**Honors:** NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award, 1983, 25 Years of Service Award, 1993. Full Professor, Rutgers Univ., 1993. Lions International Melvin Jones Fellow Award, 1997. Award for Motivational Leadership on behalf of children at CAMP-YDP, Paterson, NJ, 1993.

### Biography:

After working as an industrial engineer and computer programmer, Roger became 4-H Agent in Bergen County in 1961. His success can be measured by the increases in 4-H clubs from 15 to 65, volunteer 4-H leaders from 25 to 251 and 4-H members from 325 to 1,500 while reaching over 3,000 youth annually. Other successes include the development of educational materials for the 4-H horse, rabbit, cavy and small animal projects; the development of START - Saving Today's American Resources for Tomorrow ecology special interest camps; and 4-H Dog camps which evolved into a state-wide Seeing Eye Dog camp. During Roger's tenure, the Bergen Co. 4-H Fair grew from a 2-day shopping center event to a full 4-day county 4-H fair.

Roger developed the Horseless Horse program and expanded opportunities for suburban youth in rabbits, cavies, and small animals. Bicycle and book collections were created to benefit urban youth. He established a state-wide 4-H show and quiz bowls for rabbits, cavies, small animals, dogs, cats, and seeing-eye dogs and a New Jersey Quiz Bowl on state history that he ran in public schools. The Roger M. Barr 4-H Scholarship Fund has awarded over \$60,000 to Bergen Co. 4-H high school graduates. Roger and his wife Betsy have 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. He continues active roles with Bergen Co. 4-H and is on the Sarasota Co. (FL) 4-H Foundation.

### Quote:

Roger demonstrated exceptional qualities of leadership with his vision, analytical and creative thinking, strategic planning and communication skills. He strengthened and expanded traditional 4-H programs while creating innovative opportunities for urban youth in a very complex county. He made a difference in the lives of many youth, leaders and families.

- Dr. Joel R. Soobitsky, Retired National 4-H Program Leader, USDA



Roger and Betsy Barr at the Great Falls of the Passaic River in Patterson, NJ.



Roger and his son Roger at Lindkey Cook 4-H Camp hosting WV 4-H Leaders in an interstate exchange.



Roger with 4-H members during Spring Fling at Bergen Pines County Hospital