

# National 4-H Hall of Fame 2014

## Oklahoma



**Pat McNally**  
State 4-H Program Leader

Hometown: Hardtner, KS      Nominated by: Oklahoma 4-H

### Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Ten year 4-H member in Barber County, Kansas. Received BS from Colorado State University (1970), MS and EdD from Oklahoma State University (1980 and 1989). 34-year career included County Extension Home Economist and District 4-H Specialist (Oklahoma), State 4-H Specialist (Oklahoma, Virginia and Kansas) and State 4-H Program Leader, Department Head, Assistant Extension Director (Kansas). NAE4-HA President in 1983-84; board member 1979-1985. **Honors:** NAE4-HA Meritorious and Distinguished Service Awards; BSA Baden Powell Leadership Award; Coffman Leadership Institute Fellow at Kansas State University; K-State Research and Extension Builder Award.

### Biography:

In the early 1920s, Pat's grandparents set the stage for her future in Extension. They were instrumental in bringing the first Extension Agriculture Agent to Woods Co., OK. Her parents were leaders for the Lone Eagle 4-H Club in Barber Co., KS. Thus, her career began. Being president of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, earning master's and doctoral degrees while working full time and being a single mom, earning a doctoral degree in Leisure Services and breaking the barrier of degree requirements, becoming a pioneer in 4-H outdoor experiential education and challenge-based programming and serving as the Kansas State 4-H Program Leader weren't on her bucket list as a Kansas 4-H'er. But she did all of these.

For 26 years, Pat coordinated wilderness adventure programs for hundreds of 4-H teens and adults in Oklahoma, Virginia and Kansas, including canoeing, white water rafting and backpacking. As a member of the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee, she coordinated national certification workshops. She coordinated and lead sessions at National 4-H Camping Institutes, Leisure Labs, Leader Forums and Outdoor Education Conferences. She taught 600 educational workshops and presentations throughout her career. Throughout her career, the focus was on the leadership development of and engagement of youth and adult volunteers in their 4-H experiences. And, she did.

### Quote:

"In order to keep what you have, you have to give it away." Some time ago, I came across this quote and it has guided me throughout my youth development career. I learned that it is far more important that the 4-H members and leaders believe that it is their 4-H program rather than me saying that it is "my" (Pat's) 4-H program. Then, and only then, will the 4-H program continue to grow and prosper.



4-H'ers canoeing in the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area in northern Minnesota.



4-H'ers backpacking at the BSA Philmont High Adventure base in New Mexico.



Celebrating the NAE4-HA Meritorious Award with Kansas Extension 4-H Youth Development Agents.