

Oklahoma & Oregon – 2012



Jim Rutledge

State 4-H Program Leader, OR & OK
OK 4-H Foundation Executive Director

4-H Activities: 4-H member 9 years in Illinois & Wisconsin; Collegiate 4-H, BS & MS Extension Education, Univ. of Wisconsin; EdD at Oklahoma State Univ. 2 years US Army. Wisconsin County 4-H Youth Agent, Wyoming Area 4-H Agent, Oklahoma State 4-H Specialist and State 4-H Leader, and OR State 4-H Leader. Since retirement, part-time adjunct professor and Oklahoma 4-H Foundation Executive Director.

Honors: I Dare You and Key Club as a member. NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award, Meritorious Service Award, Air Force American Spirit Award. ESP International Service Award. OR Dept. of Agriculture Distinguished Service Award. Oregon 4-H Hall of Fame.

Jim joined 4-H at age 10 and has been fully engaged for the past 55 years. After serving as president of his local 4-H club and junior leader organization, he became a student of leadership development. He spent the rest of his life in a variety of leadership roles, building the capacity of the 4-H Youth Development Program by helping others become leaders too - everything from camp counselors and ambassadors to volunteers, educators, councils and boards. Jim has served as the president or chair of his collegiate 4-H club, state 4-H association, organization of State 4-H Program Leaders; International 4-H Programs Committee, USDA 4-H

Home: Stillwater, Oklahoma
Nominated by: Oklahoma & Oregon 4-H
Internet: jr.clover1@gmail.com
Year Inducted: 2012

Centennial Task Force, NAE4-HA Professional Improvement Committee and Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation.

Jim was also selected to participate in the National 4-H Executive Development Institute, serve on the National 4-H Congress Board and Design Team, National 4-H Council Board and the National 4-H Recognition and Incentives Design Team. At the community level, he was a charter member of two Rotary Clubs, currently serves as Treasurer of the University Credit Union and Chair of the Official Board for his church. Since retirement he has traveled coast to coast to present 18 professional development workshops for over 1,000 Extension professionals. As a hobby he does first person presentations as President Abraham Lincoln.

Quote: I believe 4-H is as important to America's future as it ever was. 4-H is great at helping youth and adults develop the leadership and life skills needed to prepare for the future. I owe nearly everything I have, including my family, friends, and career to 4-H and the wonderful folks I have had the opportunity to work with from my first 4-H club to the present time. I have tried in my career and since retirement to give something back to 4-H, and I hope in some small way I have been successful.



Jim and wife Kathy at American Spirit Award Presentation in Milwaukee, 2006.



Past and Present Oklahoma State 4-H Leaders/Assistant Directors at their Centennial Celebration in 2009.



Past Oregon 4-H Administrators at their Centennial Celebration in 2004.