

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2017

Tennessee



Steve Sutton

Former Director and State 4-H Leader,
University of Tennessee Extension

Home: Newport, TN

Nominated by: Tennessee 4-H

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Grew up on a small farm in East Tennessee. A 4-H member in the swine project. Tennessee Extension career as a 4-H agent, youth development specialist and state 4-H program leader. A 30-year member of NAE4-HA and now Life Member.

Honors: National 4-H Congress delegate in swine project (1969). NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award, 25 year Service Award, American Spirit Award, Meritorious Service Award and Air Force Recruiting Award. Tennessee Friend of 4-H Award.

Biography:

Steve Sutton is a respected 4-H professional with outstanding leadership skills, creative citizenship competencies and unquestionable character. He is known for his ability to engage professionals in educational endeavors and for providing meaningful leadership opportunities to young people. He served as chair of the service-learning subcommittee for the Youth Issues '95: A 4-H Congress in Memphis where his team developed the educational model to insure delegates had a service experience at one of 21 sites identified across the city. That model has continued to be used at National 4-H Congress as well as adapted at numerous other state and national 4-H events.

Steve is known as a leader in working with others to produce high quality 4-H curricula. He served as a jury member for the National 4-H Curriculum Collection, as chair of the 4-HCCS curriculum committee and as a peer reviewer for 4-H National Headquarters' Programs of Distinction database. He was a member of the National 4-H Congress design team and served two two-year terms on the National 4-H Congress Board of Directors. Steve initiated the Tennessee 4-H Academic Conference to recognize junior high 4-H members for project. The program continues to serve as a model in cooperation by involving scientists and other key resource people from all four divisions of the UT Institute of Agriculture.

Quote:

4-H has been good to me. As a youth, it helped me develop the confidence and skills to achieve things beyond my wildest dreams. As a profession, it has allowed me to make a difference in the lives of countless young people. Throughout my career, I have had the support of a loving family, excellent mentors, dedicated coworkers and caring volunteers. I would be remiss not to share any success I may have achieved with them. I humbly accept this award on their behalf. Thank you.



Steve (seated) attended the 1969 National 4-H Congress in Chicago as Tennessee's swine project winner.



4-H members attending Tennessee 4-H Electric Camp just love Mr. Sutton!



Steve enjoyed his coworkers on the Tennessee state 4-H staff and looked forward to the annual holiday photo each year.