

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2015

Texas



Margaret Christine "Chris" Holcombe
Milam County Extension Agent – Family Consumer Science (Emeritus)

Home: Cameron, TX

Nominated by: Texas 4-H

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Travis County 4-H member for 13 years. Texas State 4-H Council member, Texas 4-H Scholarship recipient, National 4-H Congress delegate, National 4-H Conference delegate, State Recordbook winner. Career as Milam County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences for 35 years. Assisted 4-Hers with receiving over \$4 million in scholarships.

Honors: Meritorious Service Award winner, Yellow Rose of Texas Award winner, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Honorary Lifetime Member, three individual scholarship programs established in her honor.

Biography:

Chris retired on September 30, 2001 after serving 35 years as the Milam County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences. Her 4-H career started as a 4-Her in Travis County in 1951. For 13 years she learned and experienced opportunities such as National 4-H Conference, National 4-H Congress, State 4-H Recordbook Winner, State 4-H Council member, 4-H State Roundup Winner, Gold Star Girl, District 4-H Council Officer, Texas 4-H Foundation Home Demonstration Scholarship, and more. After graduating from the University of Texas at Austin in 1967 she continued her 4-H passion as an agent. In her career, she served as the county 4-H coordinator teaching something in almost every project area.

Chris' dedication resulted in countless 1st place state 4-H winners in Roundup, Recordbooks, and the Texas major stock shows. Winning was always fun for her, but it really didn't matter how you placed as long as you did your best. Chris pushed 4-Hers to experience adventures like State Roundup, National Congress, and National Conference - "OPPORTUNITIES" that developed 4-Hers and expanded their learning experiences. Nowhere was her leadership more exemplified than the 191 4-Hers who have received over \$1.5 million in scholarships from the Texas 4-H Foundation and more than \$4 million in total scholarships for the youth of Milam County.

Quote:

Chris was fond of a Dr. Seuss book, called "Oh, the Places You'll Go"

She gave me one at my graduation, not all that long ago.

How fitting that book now seems, looking back into the past.

The basic lessons contained therein, are those designed to last.

You see, Life is a cartoon, at the very basic level.

You've got fast and slow, right and wrong, or perhaps God versus the Devil.

Like a professional scout, Chris Holcombe had an eye to find your talent, however, unlike a scout, her goal in mind was far away much different.

She could unlock those hidden skills, which each person possessed, And helped them cultivate and grow, which makes her truly blessed.

There was no agenda for Chris, aims to reach her place atop, She simply wanted to help each child, to make them cream of the crop.

- A Poem by Former 4-Her Trey Felton



Chris with 4-H clothing and textiles projects.



Chris as a member of the Texas 4-H Council, 1965



Chris at Food and Nutrition Day Camp