

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2008

Kansas



Cecil Eyestone Kansas State 4-H Specialist

Home: Manhattan, KS

Nominated by: Kansas 4-H

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

31 year Kansas 4-H career - 12 as Montgomery County club agent and 19 as State 4-H Specialist. Initiated the first junior leaders club for the teens that was adopted in 80% of Kansas counties, leading to the State Junior Leadership Camp held 1959-1974. Coached 10 state champion and one national championship judging team: 3 livestock, 3 poultry, 1 dairy and 1 crops. Sponsor Cecil & Merle Eyestone 4-H leadership scholarship for 24 years.

Honors: Leavenworth County Junior Leadership Champion. Union Pacific Railroad Scholarship winner. Honored Senior, Collegiate 4-H Club. NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award, 1957. NAE4-HA Regional Director. Life member of Epsilon Sigma Phi.

Biography:

"Teaching by example," was Cecil Eyestone's philosophy in his 31 year Kansas 4-H career. He served 12 years as a Montgomery County club agent and 19 years as a State 4-H Specialist. He was a pioneer for leadership opportunities for teens. Cecil initiated the first junior leaders club for the teens in Montgomery County. His determined attitude for developing teen leaders through hands-on experiences resulted in 80% of Kansas counties adopting the concept. A State Junior Leadership Camp was held in 1959 at Rock Springs 4-H Center that continued for 15 years with annual participation of 200-300 youth. Cecil and his brother Merle have sponsored a 4-H leadership scholarship for 24 years.

Cecil was Collegiate 4-H Club Advisor for 16 years, reaching over 4,000 students. He organized eight collegiate clubs at other Kansas universities and colleges. Cecil guided the animal science 4-H program and helped develop horse, dog and rabbit projects. He created the Horse Panorama to teach horse care and judging. Retired in 1977, Cecil volunteers for the Governor's Mental Health Advisory, National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Sertoma, Riley County Flint Hills AMI, Methodist's Men and First United Methodist Church, Flint Hills Veterans Coalition and KSU WWII Veterans Memorial. He stays busy with his family, but finds time to judge four to ten county fairs annually.

Quote:

"Involvement in the 4-H Program has been my theme in life since I was invited to join a 4-H club when I was 13-years-olds," said Eyestone. 4-H was a career he "fell into" after graduating from Kansas State University. Cecil was an early advocate of 4-H positive youth development where youth "learned the satisfaction gained by helping others"-- a philosophy he still lives by today.



Coach Eyestone and one of his champion livestock judging teams.



Cecil celebrates with Eyestone 4-H Leadership Scholarship winners.