

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2008

Louisiana



C. J. Naquin
State 4-H Leader and Foundation Director

Home: Baton Rouge, LA

Nominated by: Louisiana 4-H

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Lafourche Parish 8-year 4-H member in garden, swine, dairy, beef, and poultry. 37-year career as Parish 4-H agent (1951), regional 4-H programmer (1958), state 4-H specialist and state 4-H Program Leader (1978). First LA 4-H Foundation Director, began endowments to sponsor 4-H awards programs. Started foundations and Junior Leader Clubs in all parishes. Responsible for raising \$100,000 for a Louisiana Room at the National 4-H Center in 1979. Served on regional and national committees utilizing his expertise in curriculum. **Honors:** Charter member LA 4-H Agents Association; first recipient Distinguished Service Award from LA. Collection of \$16,667 used to establish scholarship fund in his name.

Biography:

C. J. Naquin was an 8-year 4-H member and taught school for 3 years serving as a 4-H club leader. After 8 years as parish 4-H agent in Avoyelles, Lafourche, and St. Landry, he was appointed 4-H Central Southwest district programmer. Naquin developed a self-evaluation later adopted by the entire state. It provided an in-depth analysis and helped determine strengths and weaknesses. He assisted his parishes with developing advisory and executive committees. Naquin was promoted to State 4-H Specialist for the 4-H Leadership program. He started Junior Leader Clubs in all parishes, which encouraged high school youth to work as a team on community service programs and developing leadership skills.

As State 4-H Program Leader, Naquin organized the LA 4-H Foundation, serving as the first director, and developed endowments such as the John A. Cox, Mark Bonner, and Lesley Flowers endowments to sponsor 4-H awards. He traveled throughout LA to establish parish 4-H foundations. Naquin started the first LABO exchange program hosting 150 youth from Japan. With LA's French heritage, he organized a 6 week exchange to France sponsored by the 4-H Foundation and private donations in 1988. He organized a 1-week camp at Camp Grant Walker dedicated to only disabled 4-H members. Naquin served on regional and national committees, including the National Curriculum Committee, offering his vast experience and knowledge in 4-H.

Quote:

"4-H is a family affair. It contributes to the development and growth of both our youth and their parents. 4-H has been a learning experience for me and my family and most important it's been an opportunity to be of service to other people. In addition, it has also been an opportunity to encourage service by adults and youth. It has been an honor and a privilege to be involved in the 4-H program."