

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2008

Maryland



Amy Fry Leber **Executive Director, Maryland 4-H Foundation**

Hometown: Laytonsville, MD

Nominated by: Maryland 4-H

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Laytonsville 4-H Club member. Montgomery County 4-H Senior Council. Maryland 4-H Club Week Tribe Leader. University of Maryland Collegiate 4-H Club Officer. Laytonsville 4-H Club Leader. Montgomery County Fair Board member, Montgomery County and Maryland State Fair Judge. Assistant Home Demonstration Agent, 4-H. Established the Maryland 4-H Foundation, served as first Executive Director.

Honors: Delegate to National 4-H Congress. IFYE to Switzerland. Inducted as a Maryland 4-H All Star at age 16.

Biography:

Raised in a hard-working, service-oriented family, Amy Leber followed her three older brothers into the Laytonsville 4-H Club participating in the citizenship, public speaking, leadership, home economics and food preservation projects. Her citizenship continued into her teen and young adult years as she actively participated on the Montgomery County 4-H Senior Council, volunteered annually at the Montgomery County Fair, attended National 4-H Congress, served as an IFYE to Switzerland and was inducted as a Maryland 4-H All Star at age 16. After graduating from the University of Maryland, Amy continued to volunteer for 4-H while teaching elementary school.

Later, Amy became Assistant Home Demonstration Agent, 4-H. She soon noticed that Extension and 4-H Agents were struggling with diminishing funds. With other influential Maryland 4-H leaders, she leveraged her leadership to establish the Maryland 4-H Foundation. As the first Executive Director, she built strong relations between Cooperative Extension, university administration and county programs. She organized "Friends of 4-H" fundraising committees in every county. The Maryland 4-H Center was opened in 1989 because of her commitment and vision for Maryland 4-H. The Maryland 4-H Foundation continues to provide necessary funds for state events, new programs and 4-H scholarships to benefit 4-H.

Quote:

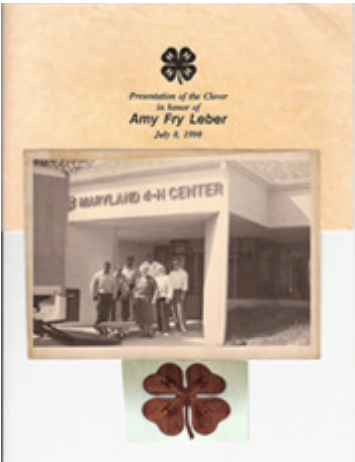
"Amy had a favorite saying, 'Don't hide your light under a bushel basket.' She used it with me and many other 4-Hers more times than I wanted to hear it. It was almost impossible to hide from Amy as she encouraged us to maximize our talents and step farther out of our comfort zones! Amy always managed to find a way to 'encourage' me to gain experiences and serve the greater community. She seemed to tirelessly care about the community both local and worldwide." Jane Griffith Evans, 4-H member of Amy Fry Leber



Amy at age 14, using her food project skills baking for the family.



Amy represents Maryland at the opening of National 4-H Club Congress.



Amy's vision - the Maryland 4-H Center.