

Oklahoma



Mary Sue Sanders - 4-H Educator (Retired) Coordinator, Oklahoma 4-H Ambassadors

4-H Projects: Major 4-H project was Home Improvement.

Honors: 1996: NAE4HA American Spirit Award winner, Oklahoma 4-H Volunteer Association Distinguished Service Award; 1994 Partner in 4-H Award; 1993: Oklahoma Association of 4-H Agents Life Member Award, Oklahoma Home Economics Association Service Award; 1992: Division of Agriculture and Natural Sciences Appreciation Award, The State of Oklahoma House of Representatives Citation, Board of Cleveland County Commissioners Citation, Cleveland County Honorary 4-H Member; 1988 Outstanding Field Staff, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension; 1987 OAE4HA and NAE4HA 25 Years in Service; 1985 Oklahoma Association of Extension Home Economists Cleo S. Bryan Award; 1982 OAE4HA and NAE4HA Distinguished Service Award; 1981 Oklahoma Association of Extension 4-H Agents Hall of Fame; 1971 Epsilon Sigma Phi State Staff Superior Service Award; 1970 Outstanding Young Woman Award, Stillwater Business.

Hometown: Sentinal, Oklahoma
Nominated by: Oklahoma 4-H
Year Inducted: 2002

"As a 4-H Member, I learned the importance of leadership, which has continued thru my Extension Educator and Volunteer Career. My main professional goals are helping youth and adults learn ways to help themselves and others; make their visions come true; giving older youth the opportunity to perform adult like roles with guidance."

As a youth Mary Sue was inspired by her 4-H educators to dedicate her life to 4-H youth development. Mary Sue was a successful and dedicated 4-H member who went on to become an equally successful and dedicated 4-H educator. Mary Sue started in extension in 1961 as the assistant Home Demonstration Agent. She served as state assistant program specialist, EFNEP coordinator, District 4-H Specialist, and retired in 1992 as a county 4-H Educator. During her professional career she published 4-H leader training materials, State awards and record handbook, 4-H Club and Member Planning Guides, County Report Forms, and the 4-H Personality Improvement Workbook

Mary Sue developed and taught numerous lessons and workshops over the years, but the focus was mostly on Volunteer Leader Development and Character Education. In her retirement Mary Sue continues her tireless work for Oklahoma's 4-H youth. She created the Oklahoma 4-H Ambassador Program in 1992 and she currently serves on the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation board as the Treasurer.



Mary Sue gives advice and encouragement to a 4-H Ambassador.

Mary Sue Sanders has always advocated Youth/Adult Partnerships. Her 1981 Cleveland County Teen Club planned, organized and conducted most of the county 4-H activities.



The experiential learning model is nothing new to Mary Sue. Here she helps a Cleveland County 4-H Sewing Club member in 1982.