

CANDI BURKE, SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Candi Burke has given thirty years of service to the Snohomish County 4-H program. She began volunteering for 4-H for her children, in order to help instill in them the qualities that she herself valued from her own childhood experiences in 4-H. Candi showed Horses in 4-H as a youth and teen for nearly ten years in King County. Though extremely competitive, Candi always found time to help other members when they needed it, truly showing a 4-H heart. When Candi became a parent, she wanted to share the experiences she loved with her own children. In her time with Snohomish County 4-H, she has devoted countless hours to the horse, cat, creative arts, and llama programs, serving in many different capacities within each program. Candi has helped to develop program curriculum, as well as helping to start new programs in the county.

During her time with the horse program, Candi served several terms as President of the Horse Program Leaders Council, helping to plan horse shows and other equine events and taking her passion for horses to a new generation of 4-H members. She was also was Section Supervisor for the Senior section of the horse show at the Evergreen State Fair. She has assisted with the annual tack sale, a major fundraiser for the Snohomish County Horse Program, putting in countless hours to take consignments and help run the sale.

Candi was instrumental in the development of the Creative Arts Program in Snohomish County, helping to adopt and implement curriculum for the project based on the Art Docent curriculum used by local school districts. She helped shape the program into one that would teach members not only fun crafts but an appreciation of the elements of design in art such as lines, shape, form, texture, and color. She served as Secretary and Treasurer on the Programs Council for several years, and eventually became the Snohomish County Creative Arts Program Leader. In this role, she brought many unique and creative opportunities to Snohomish County 4-H members, showing them aspects of art they may never have known existed, such as the importance and meaning of art and art forms to other cultures.

When one of her daughters became interested in cats, Candi dove into the cat program, learning all she could about cats. Candi eventually became the Cat Program Leader for Snohomish County, a position that she has now held for nearly twenty years. When members in Snohomish County wanted to show Llamas and there was no Llama project, Candi again stepped in to help. Serving as Secretary for the Llama Program, she was instrumental in the writing of the program by-laws and the requirements and application process for members to receive the Llama Achievement pin.

Candi has always put her best foot forward to ensure positive youth development. She has taken the 4-H pledge to heart, fulfilling it through many projects, events, and positions. She continues to serve Snohomish County 4-H long after her own children have grown and left the program. The difference she has made in the lives of not only her own children but the lives of all members who have participated in 4-H in the last thirty years will continue to make the best better far into the future.