

Julie Custer, New IWCF Member



Born in McAllen, TX, seven miles from the Texas/Mexico border, Julie Custer grew up in a land of citrus, onions, and cotton. She used to play war with pomegranates, using garbage lids as shields. This was long, long before the rest of us knew what a precious fruit these were.

Julie began her collegiate career at the University of Texas-Pan American. She dropped out when she learned speech was a required class. I mention this because anyone who has seen her in front of an audience cannot believe this. She is frequently teased that it takes a hook to get her offstage. She has obviously overcome one of her greatest fears.

At the age of ten, Julie attended summer camp in Colorado. She fell in love with mountains. So as an adult, after residing in Houston and Dallas, when she had a chance to visit Idaho with a friend, she jumped at that chance.

Her first Boise experience was Art in the Park followed by a ride on the Payette River Scenic Byway to McCall. Boise! This is where Julie wanted to be. She returned to Dallas, gave notice at work, put her house on the market, and moved to Boise with no job and no friends. Julie is obviously someone who follows her dreams.

After a temporary job with Ore-Ida, she was hired by Boise Cascade where she spent twenty-three years in Pensions and Managed Health Care. She honed her speaking skills by visiting locations and telling them with tact, empathy, and humor, all the benefits they were no longer going to receive. She wore a sign around her neck that read “Messenger” and conveyed the message, “Don’t Shoot the Messenger.”

After retiring, Julie began traveling throughout the United States. She has visited 51 National Parks, numerous national monuments and historical sites and recently added presidential libraries to her list of places she must see.

Julie has also been very involved in the American Association of University Women (AAUW) having gone back to college and graduating at 50. And yes, she took that speech class.

Belonging to IWCF will provide Julie with an opportunity to give to Boise and the surrounding community that she fell in love with all those years ago. Welcome to IWCF.