2011 TEXAS 4-H OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

TRAINING HANDBOOKS

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating
INTRODUCTION

- First scholarship was given in 1959 by the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo in the amount of $1,000.00, today the largest scholarship is $16,000.00 presented by the San Antonio Livestock Exposition and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.
- In 2011 the Scholarship program will celebrate 52 years of providing college scholarship to Texas 4-H members.
- Scholarship program is the largest 4-H scholarship program in the United States.
Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program

2011 PROGRAM CHANGES

- Value of scholarships will range from $1,000 to $16,000.
- All applicants that are invited and participate in interviews will be awarded a scholarship in the above mentioned range.
- Applicants will NOT be excused from either the face-to-face interviews or the scholarship assembly. Applicants and families should plan accordingly based on the dates provided in the guidelines.
- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has raised scholarship value from $15,000 to $16,000.
- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has raised their maximum confirmed financial aid from $40,000 to $75,000.

Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program

2011 NOTES AND COMMENTS

- Financial need evaluation will be done using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. This detailed form provides an “Expected Family Contribution,” or EFC. For many youth starting their college career, the FAFSA will assist you in determining if you are eligible for other financial support.
- 4-H members should complete the FAFSA in the Fall using the 2009 Federal Income Tax Return with either the on-line or paper process. It takes approximately three to four weeks to receive your report from FAFSA that must be included in your application.

Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program

2011 NOTES AND COMMENTS

- 4-H members cannot submit an application to the Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program and the Texas FFA and/or FCCLA Organizations. They must choose the organization through which they wish to apply. These do not apply to National FFA scholarships.
- All applications must be secured by either a paper clip or binder clip – NO STAPLES.
- Same application is used for Courageous Heart, Baccalaureate, and Technical scholarships in 2011.
- Courageous Heart applicants will complete additional page and submit three letters of references with application.
**Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program**

**WHAT YOU NEED TO COMPLETE A 2011 APPLICATION**

- 4-H recordbook(s) or participation information to help complete the scholarship application.
- 2011 Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Application Guidelines
- Official high school transcript with either school seal or original signature of counselor/principal.
- SAT/ACT Test Scores (may be listed on high school transcript)
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Student Aid Report (SAR)
- College catalog pages from major and/or course of study.

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**Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program**

**SCHOLARSHIP PROCESS**

4-H Member → Scholarship Application → Application Submission → Application Verification & Certification → Judging of Applications → Interview Notification → Interview → Scholarship Orientation → Scholarship Presentation → Scholarship Banquet → Submission of Contracts, Thank you notes, etc. → Scholarship Payment to College/University

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**Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program**

**2011 APPLICATION**

- 2011 application is available in:
  - Microsoft Word
- Format Samples are available in:
  - Adobe PDF format
  - Includes
    - Sample structures and formatting for 4-H record portion of application.
- Applications and instructions available from your County Extension Office or the Texas 4-H and Youth Development website at: [http://texas4-h.tamu.edu](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu)
TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program has four types of scholarships a 4-H member can apply for:

• Baccalaureate
• Technical Certification/Degree
• Courageous Heart Scholarship
• Collegiate Scholarships

REQUIREMENTS/Criteria

• Be an active member of the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program for the current year and at least the two of the three previous years.
• Be a United States citizen.
• Be a Texas resident.
• Scheduled to graduate from a Texas High School during 2010-2011 school year.
• Made formal application to a Texas college/university.
• Met the entrance requirements for the college or university where application has been made.

REQUIREMENTS/Criteria

• Submit the most current Texas 4-H and Youth Development Opportunity Scholarship application.
• Homeschooled youth must provide:
  - An official transcript
  - Proof of completing all required standardized test(s) to graduate and enroll in a Texas College/University, or proof of the standardized test exemption.
• Not be submitting a Texas FFA and/or FCCLA Scholarship Application. (National FFA Scholarship applications are acceptable)
Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program

BACCALAUREATE

Traditional 4-H college scholarship for students who wish to pursue a Bachelor of Science (BS) or Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree.

Criteria
- Scored at least 1350 on SAT or 19 on ACT (test scores must be from a single test date)
- Complete and passed all necessary standardized test(s) for graduation and admittance to the college/university declared in application.
- Have been accepted into a Texas college/university by the time of scholarship awarding.

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Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation

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TECHNICAL CERTIFICATION

For students who wish to pursue technical certification offered in the eligible majors/courses of student and from an approved Texas accredited college. Associate degrees are not allowed.

Criteria
- Completed and passed all necessary standardized test(s) for graduation and admittance to the college/university declared in the application.
- Accepted into a Texas college, university, or technical school by the time of scholarship awarding.
- DO NOT have plans to continue formal education at a Texas college/university after the completion of a technical program.

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COURAGEOUS HEART

Scholarships awarded to 4-H members that have overcome extreme obstacles related to medical, family, and/or education and remained active in 4-H and school.

Criteria
- Application submitted by the applicant.
- Applicant will use the same application as Baccalaureate and Technical.
- Additional requirement for applicant is to write an essay of why you should be considered for a Courageous Heart Scholarship and three letters of recommendation (non-relatives).
- Completed and passed all necessary standardized test(s) for graduation and admittance to the college/university declared in the application.
- Have documentation of obstacles related to health, education, and/or family.
### SCORING - BACCALAUREATE

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<th>4-H Experiences</th>
<th>With Financial Need</th>
<th>Without Financial Need</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Honors</td>
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<td>Outside 4-H Leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outside 4-H Activities, Honors, Etc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade Point Average</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT/ACT Score</td>
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<td>Financial Need</td>
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<td>Interview</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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### SCORING - TECHNICAL

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### SCORING - COURAGEOUS HEART

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<td>Interview</td>
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**APPLICATION**

- Must be fully complete to receive consideration.
- Application must be:
  - Computer generated and prepared
  - Typed using a typewriter
  - Must include all required attachments
  - Official transcript
  - SAT/ACT scores (if not included on transcript)
  - Copy of FAFSA – SAR report
  - College Catalog pages of major/degree of study

*DO NOT ADD PAGES TO THE APPLICATION!*

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**APPLICATION ORDER**

- Section I: Personal Information
- Section II: High School and College Information
- Section III: Livestock Show Participation
- Section IV: SALE – School Tours Information
- Section V: Financial Information
- Section VI: Record of Experience
- Section VII: Personal Narrative
- Section VIII: Career Narrative
- Section IX: Individual Scholastic Record
- Section X: Courageous Heart Application Information
- Section XI: Application Checklist and Certification
- Required Attachments (ACT/SAT scores, Transcript, and FAFSA Student Activity Report, College Pages)

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**APPLICATION SECTIONS**

- **SECTION I:** Personal Information
  - Identify the submission of the application (Baccalaureate or Technical)
  - All information should be completed.

- **SECTION II:** High School/College Information
  - Complete information related to high school planning on graduating from
  - List in priority order up to three schools which the applicant is wanting/hoping to attend and applied to. Indicate if applicant has received any acceptance notice from them.
  - List the major, department, and career you plan on pursuing.
Attention: Begin the FAFSA process immediately!

To ensure your complete and correct Student Aid Report (SAR) you should file before the December 31st!
APPLICATION SECTIONS

SECTION V: Financial Information

- If it is dependant upon grades, then we expect you to maintain those grades – so yes it is renewable.
- What is the total value of the financial support (amount per year X the number of years it is renewable).
- List the status of the financial aid (confirmed – you have received verification of receiving it; declined – you were turned down; or pending – you have not heard anything).
- If an applicant is selected for an interview they will be required to provide proof and documentation of all financial assistance and aid packages being received.

Confirmed Financial Aid and Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholarships:

- A recipient of any Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholarship may not receive more than $75,000 total from financial aid or any other scholarships and remain eligible to receive the Show scholarship. Applicants must list all financial aid and scholarships for which they have applied and the status of those awards as part of the application. If selected as a finalist for a scholarship, the applicant must verify all other financial aid and scholarships received. Other financial aid or scholarships received will be verified by submission of award letters from individual donors and financial aid offices of the college/university the recipient will attend. Awarding of scholarship and/or funds will not be disturbed without such verification.
APPLICATION SECTIONS

• SECTION VI: Record Of Experience
  - Information for completing Section VI can be from:
    • Your 4-H recordbook
    • Past award applications
    • Member Achievement Plan (M A P)
    • Other personal records.

REMEMBER:
• Information must be presented in the space provided.
• Information listed should stress quality of the applicant’s experiences rather than quantity.
• Examples of format and layout are provided in document entitled “2011 Scholarship Application Process.”

APPLICATION SECTIONS

• SECTION VI: Record of Experience
  • 4-H Projects
    - List up to four (4) projects throughout applicant’s 4-H career.
    - Describe years involved, knowledge and skills gained, scope of activity related to project, demonstrations, talks, workshops, tours, interviews, etc. (Note: the application is for the entire 4-H career, not just the past four years as is with the record books).
    - Describe why these projects were important and what impact the applicant’s involvement provided to other people.

APPLICATION SECTIONS

• SECTION VI: Record of Experience
  • Leadership Roles
    - List up to 25 major 4-H leadership roles.
    - Include volunteer, promotion, and elected/appointed leadership.
    - List roles and responsibilities, years, levels of involvement, duties and accomplishments.
    - Briefly describe why the activities were important and what impact the applicant’s involvement provided to other people.
    - Put emphasis on the quality of applicant’s experience rather than quantity.
APPLICATION SECTIONS

• SECTION VI: Record of Experience
  • Citizenship and Community Service
    – List up to 15 major citizenship and community service projects.
    – List roles and responsibilities, years, levels of involvement, duties and accomplishments.
    – Briefly describe why the activities were important and what impact the applicant’s involvement provided to other people.
    – Put emphasis on the quality of applicant’s experience rather than quantity.

• SECTION VI: Record of Experience
  • 4-H Honors
    – List up to 4 major 4-H honors that the applicant has received in their 4-H career.
    – List the honor, year received, level of award (i.e. local/club, county/district/region, state, national, international) and why applicant considers the honors listed to be the most important (i.e. how did they contribute to and provide significance toward their personal development).

• SECTION VI: Record of Experience
  • Outside of 4-H Leadership Activities, Honors, Work Experience, Volunteering/Community Service.
    – Describe how applicant spent time outside of 4-H activities, why they devoted time to a particular activity and the impact the activity had on their personal development and how it has benefited other people.
    – List leadership roles outside of 4-H (include school, church, other youth groups, etc.).
APPLICATION SECTIONS

• SECTION VII: Personal Narrative
• Applicant must write or type a personal narrative about themselves, highlighting any important facts and information they believe the selection committee should know when considering the application.
• Include any personal obstacles that the applicant has overcome during their 4-H career.
• Space should be used wisely and do not repeat or re-list information already addressed in the application.
• Use only the space provided on the remainder of the page - do not add pages or use the reverse of the page.

• SECTION VIII: Career Narrative
• Applicant should describe how they have prepared themselves to have an awareness of and an understanding about career(s) applicable to the degree or technical certification they wish to pursue.
• Types of information the applicant may provide includes:
  • Visits to colleges/universities and conversations with personnel at those institutions.
  • Investigations of job/career opportunities and availability.
  • Persons/experiences that have influenced the applicant to pursue this degree/certification.
  • How the applicant decided between pursuit of an associate's degree/technical certification versus baccalaureate or vice-versa.

• SECTION IX: Individual Scholastic Record
• Must be completed by the applicant’s high school principal, counselor, or person serving in that official role for the applicant.
• The completed record and related materials must be returned to the applicant to become part of and attached to the Texas 4-H Scholarship Application.
• Must have a true class ranking (even if applicant is in a home school they must be ranked – “1 of 1”).
• Must have the quartile ranking of the applicant.
• Ranking and quartile must be figured on a non-weighted 100 point basis. Rankings on a 4.0 point scale will not be accepted.
• Failure to provide class and quartile ranking can result in disqualification.
APPLICATION SECTIONS

SECTION X: Courageous Heart Applicant Information
- Pages 11 & 12 of the 2011 application should be complete if a 4-H member is being considered for a Courageous Heart Scholarship.
- Courageous Heart applicants must provide detail narrative of the family, school, or medical obstacle that the applicant has experienced and has overcome.
- Include page listing three references for the applicant. References should be able to provide detail information pertaining to the applicants obstacle.
- Three (3) letters of recommendations from the above mentioned references speaking of the applicants obstacle, how they have overcome the obstacle, and how they have continued to be a strong, involved 4-H member.

APPLICATION SECTIONS

SECTION XI: Application Checklist Certification
- Checklist is included to ensure completeness of the application to eliminate all possibilities of an incomplete application being submitted.
- Checklist must be completed by initialing all areas for the application.
- Certification must be signed and dated by the applicant and a parent/guardian of the applicant.
- County Extension Agent will sign and provide information on:
  - Number of 4-H members in the county
  - Number of 4-H members in the applicant’s club
  - Number of years the applicant has been in 4-H
- District Office will sign prior to being mailed to Texas 4-H Office

TIPS FOR PREPARING YOUR APPLICATION
- Start Early – ensure you have taken your ACT/SAT test and submitted your FAFSA
- Brainstorm and gather information before you start.
- Read and follow instructions/directions.
- Ask several people that you respect to review and critique the application.
- Complete all sections – Not Applicable means NO SCORE!
- Emphasize quality – as well as quantity!
Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- This is a COMPETITIVE ACADEMIC scholarship process.
- Your application is competing against the pool of applicants from across the state – the best from across the state!
- Applicants change each year! (Just because it worked for someone last year on their application, does not mean it will work this year)
- Judges change each year!
- No quotas are set for counties, districts, or regions!
- Fort Worth Stock Show is the only livestock show donor that requires participation in the show.
- DONORS set the criteria!
- Make sure high school academic proficiency has been met and college entrance exams have been taken early and often.

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Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Each applicant receives a total score. Scores are sorted highest to lowest and applicants are matched with the MAXIMUM dollar scholarship for which the applicant qualifies.
- Scholarship restricted to a major, a college, and/or course of study is verified each semester during the duration of scholarship. DON'T LIE TO GET A SCHOLARSHIP – IT WILL CATCH UP TO YOU!
- Narratives that have only been written once are rarely effective!
- Printer problems and computer crashes are a fact-of-life, plan ahead and manage your time.
- High school counselors need time to collect official transcripts for submission.

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Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program

THINGS TO REMEMBER

The number one thing to remember:

START EARLY, EDIT OFTEN
ASK YOURSELF!

- Is the application complete?
- Has the story been told?
- Has spelling and grammar been checked?
- Is the application easy to read (minimum 10 point font)?
- Has the FAFSA – SAR Individual report been received and in a sealed envelope?
- Have transcripts/test scores been requested?
- Are narratives well written and edited?
- Has a submission category been identified?
- Has the application received all signatures?
- Is the checklist all initial and all items completed?

QUESTIONS

For questions about the 2011 Texas 4-H Scholarship Program
Contact the Texas 4-H Office at:
texas4-hscholarships@tamu.edu
Phone: 979-845-1212
FEDERAL APPLICATION FOR FREE STUDENT AID PROCESS

**STEP 1**

Go to [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

Follow the steps outlined on the website which includes:

1. Determine your dependency status.
2. Complete the FAFSA on the web worksheet
3. Locate school codes
4. Both you and your parents apply for a PIN.
5. Fill out the FAFSA
6. Sign your FAFSA electronically
7. Check status of submitted FAFSA
8. Make corrections if necessary
9. View and print your Student Aid Report (SAR).

**STEP 2**

Submit your Student Aid Report (SAR) with your scholarship application.

Your SAR will look like the graphics to the left.

COMPLETE THIS PROCESS BY DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND USE YOUR 2009 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TAX RETURNS