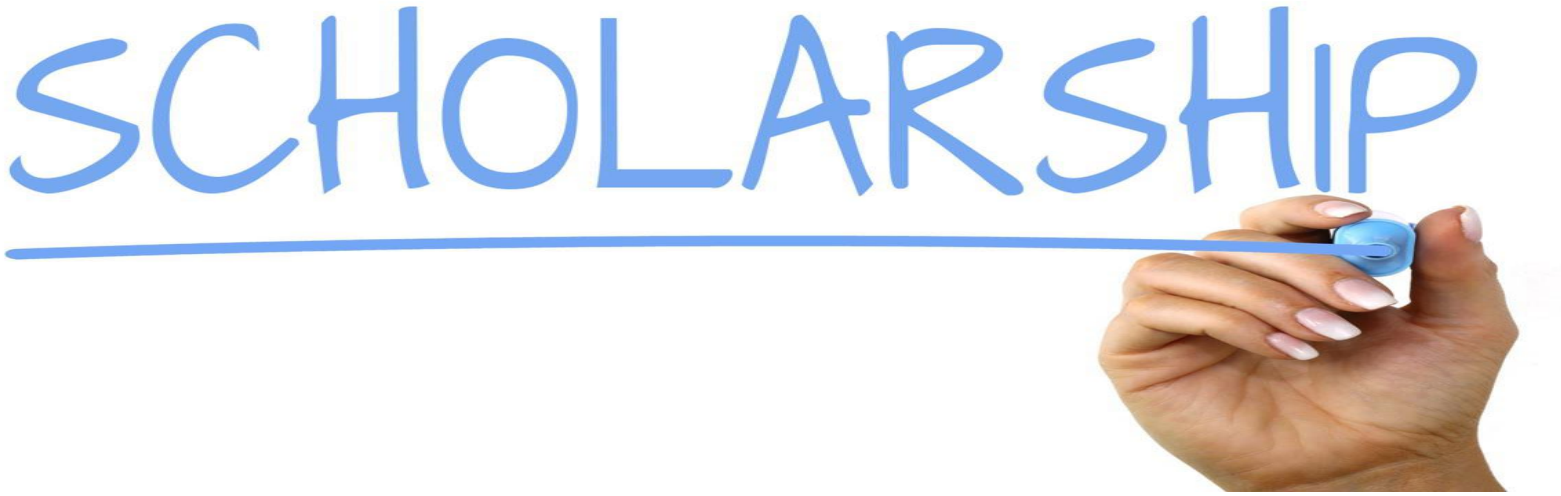
2023-2024 TEXAS 4-H OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP TRAINING

Wednesday, November 15, 2023
7:00 via TEAMs

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE



- Welcome
- Session will be Recorded
- Keep Cameras Off
- Please Ask Questions

Introduction

- The scholarship program is overseen by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation.
- An estimated $2.8 million will be given at the Texas 4-H Roundup Scholarship Assembly.
- Approximately 230 scholarships will be awarded in 2024.
- 4-H Scholarships are ***ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS*** awarded based on academic record, 4-H experience, and financial need (certain scholarships).

Recent Program Changes

- General Eligibility to apply is not limited to top ½ (50%) of class. Youth in the 3rd or 4th quartile of their class may apply. Some donors will still require the applicant to be in a certain percentage of class (Example: top 50%, top 10%, etc) to receive their individual scholarship
- Members receiving a Terry Scholarship are NOT eligible to receive a Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship (same as past few years).
- Will not be using CEA verification form. CEA's will receive list of applicants submitted by deadline for approval/enrollment verification/eligibility. – **You can/should add you CEA as a collaborator**
- Applicants invited to interview will do a "self-signup" for interview time (first come-first serve)
- ACT/SAT not required again this year for the 4-H Opportunity Scholarship.
- **Collegiate Scholarships will not be awarded in 2024.**

General Eligibility Requirements

- **Current ACTIVE** 4-H member **and** at least two of the three previous years.
- Be a United States citizens.
- Be a Texas resident.
- Scheduled to graduate from a Texas High School (public, private, home) during 23-24 year.
- Been accepted into a Texas College/University or technical school by the time of interview.

General Eligibility Requirements

- Completed and passed all necessary standardized test(s)/requirements for graduation and met the entrance requirements for the college/university for which formal application has been made.
- Submit a 2024 scholarship application
  - Only required supplemental documents have been included – transcript, FAFSA, CH letters.
  - DO NOT submit application before fall grades have been added to the transcript. *(In most cases, not submitting in December as likely do not have updated transcript)*
- Application must be complete and correct
- Once submitted, no updates allowed

2024 FAFSA CHANGE

- The FAFSA will not open until December this year.
- The SAR reported (generated from FAFSA) will still be a requirement to submit Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarships.
- PLEASE watch studentaid.gov for updates and complete as soon as it opens, to assure that you have the SAR in time to submit the scholarship application.
- If you start to run into delays receiving your SAR, stay in contact with your CEA. They may advise you to contact the Texas 4-H Foundation office.

Baccalaureate Eligibility

- Students pursuing a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts.
- Some scholarships require applicants to be in the upper one-quarter (1/4) of his/her class.

Financial aid confirmation will only be collected just before the interview.

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Eligibility

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 **$110,000** 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 disbursed without such verification.

Technical Eligibility

- Students pursuing a technical certification
- Must not have plans to continue formal education at a Texas college and/or university after the completion of a technical program.

Courageous Heart Eligibility

- Courageous Heart applicants cannot be considered for other Texas 4-H Opportunity scholarships.
- Have WRITTEN documentation of obstacles.
- Include three letters of recommendation.
- Complete the Courageous Heart Narrative.
- Maximum Scholarship value is $5,000.
- Can be Baccalaureate of Technical applicants
- 4-H members that have overcome obstacles related to medical, family, and/or education

Collegiate Scholarship Eligibility

- United State citizens.
- Texas resident.
- Been an active 4-H member in Texas.
- Attending a Texas College/University.
- Been high school graduate for at least one year prior to award.
- Completed thirty (30) hours of undergraduate work.
- 2.7 cumulative GPA at time of application.

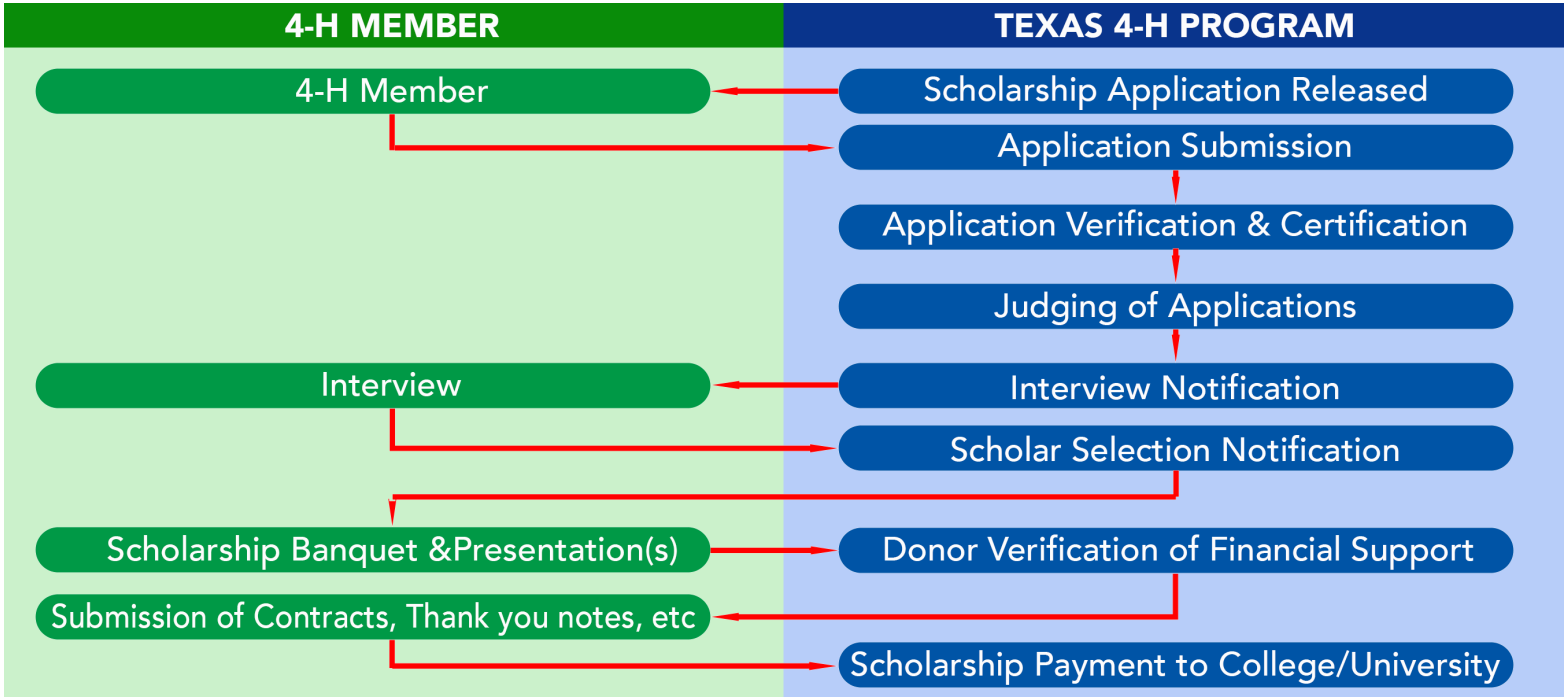
Reminders for 2024 Application

- All applications must be submitted through the Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship Portal.
- **Go through Texas 4-H Foundation website: https://texas4hfoundation.org/types-of-scholarships/**
- Click on Scholarship Portal
- Then select “Apply” for the scholarship type in which you will apply for.

2024 Application

- Application is ONLINE:
  - You can download the list of questions once logged in and complete answers in Word BUT all answers must be copied into the online application text boxes
- Format Samples are given under each list type question
- Applications and instructions available from the County Extension Office or the Texas 4-H Foundation website at: **https://texas4hfoundation.org/types-of-scholarships/**

Scholarship Process



Scoring

Scoring Category	Baccalaureate	Technical	Courageous Heart
4-H Experience & Narratives Projects Leadership Citizenship & Community Service Honors Outside 4-H Experiences/Leadership Personal Narrative Career Narrative	70	75	40
Grade Point Average	10	5	0
Financial Need FAFSA Financial Need Narrative	10	10	10
Courageous Heart Narrative	NA	NA	25
Courageous Heart Letters of Recommendation	NA	NA	15
Interview	10	10	10
MAXIMUM AWARD POINTS	100	100	100

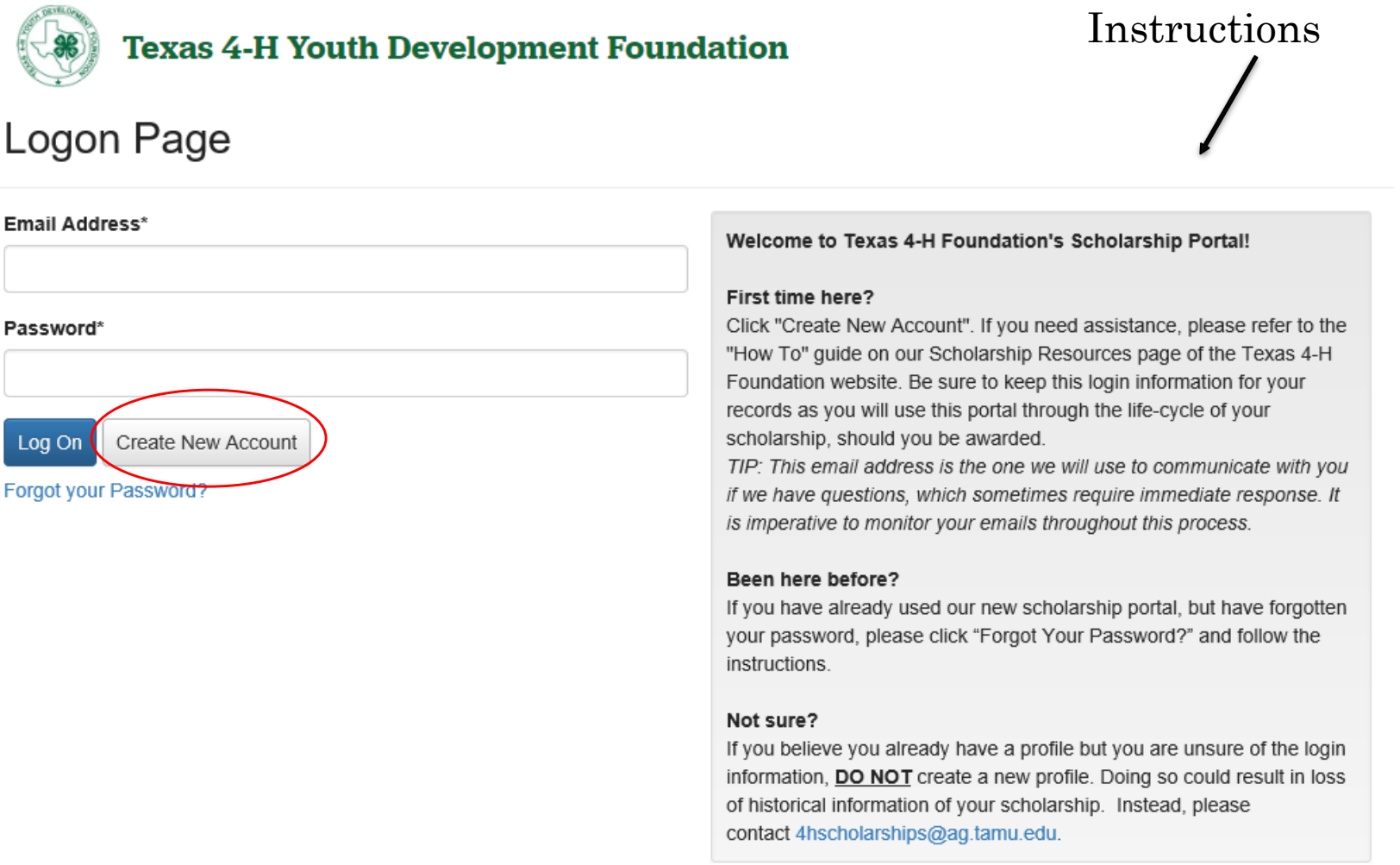
4-H Scholarship Application on Scholarship Portal

- It is important to use the email that you wish to receive all communications through.
- DO NOT use an email that you will not have access to after you graduate.
- All contact information should be the applicant's information – NOT THE PARENT/GUARDIAN.

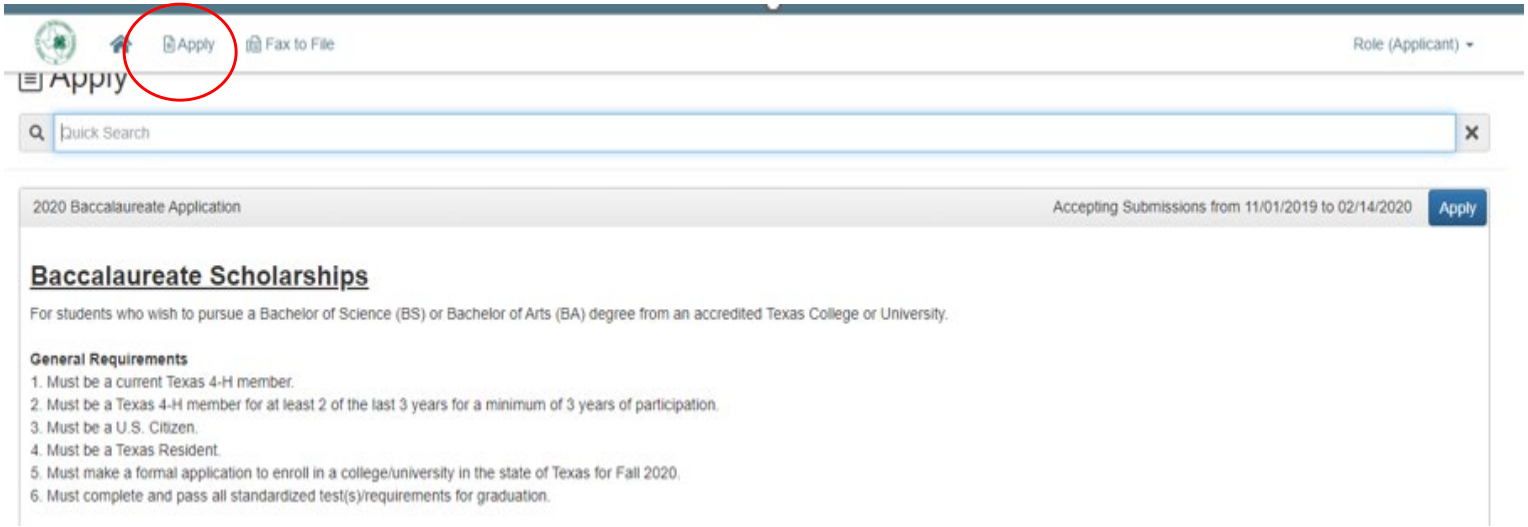
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 1, 2022.
DEADLINE TO APPLY IS FEBRUARY 15TH, 2023, AT 11:59 PM.

https://texas4hfoundation.org/types-of-scholarships/

You must create an account in the Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship Portal

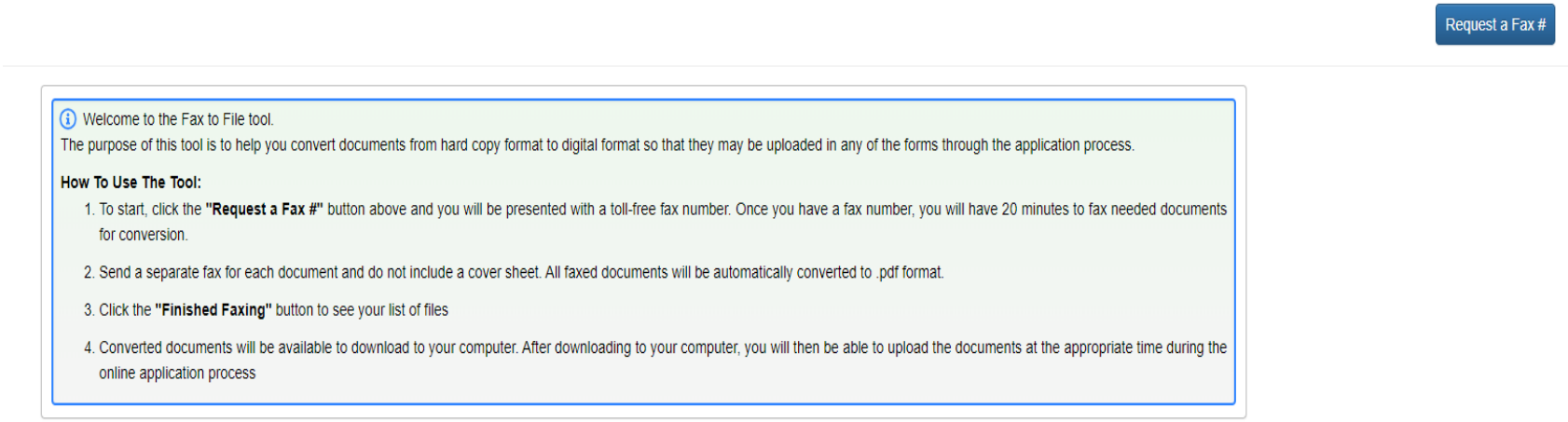


- After creating an account and completing the contact information, you will be taken to the Applicant Dashboard.
- Click the “Apply” button at the top of the page to view all available applications.



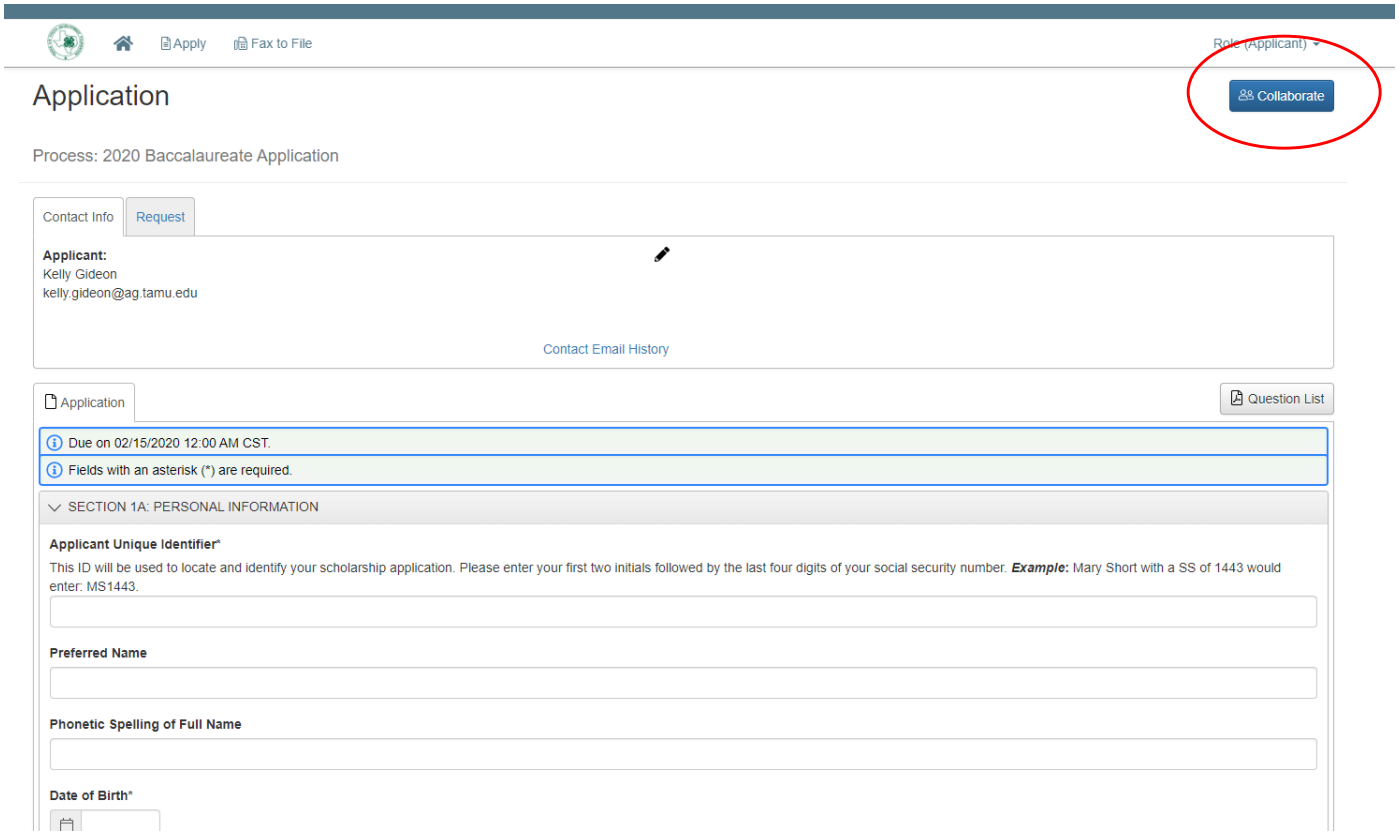
Fax to File Tool

Allows you to convert documents from hard copy format to digital by fax. Instructions are shown if the button is selected.



Collaborate Tool

Allows you to invite anyone (using their email address) to view and edit your application. Instructions are linked on the Foundation website under the "Apply" button.

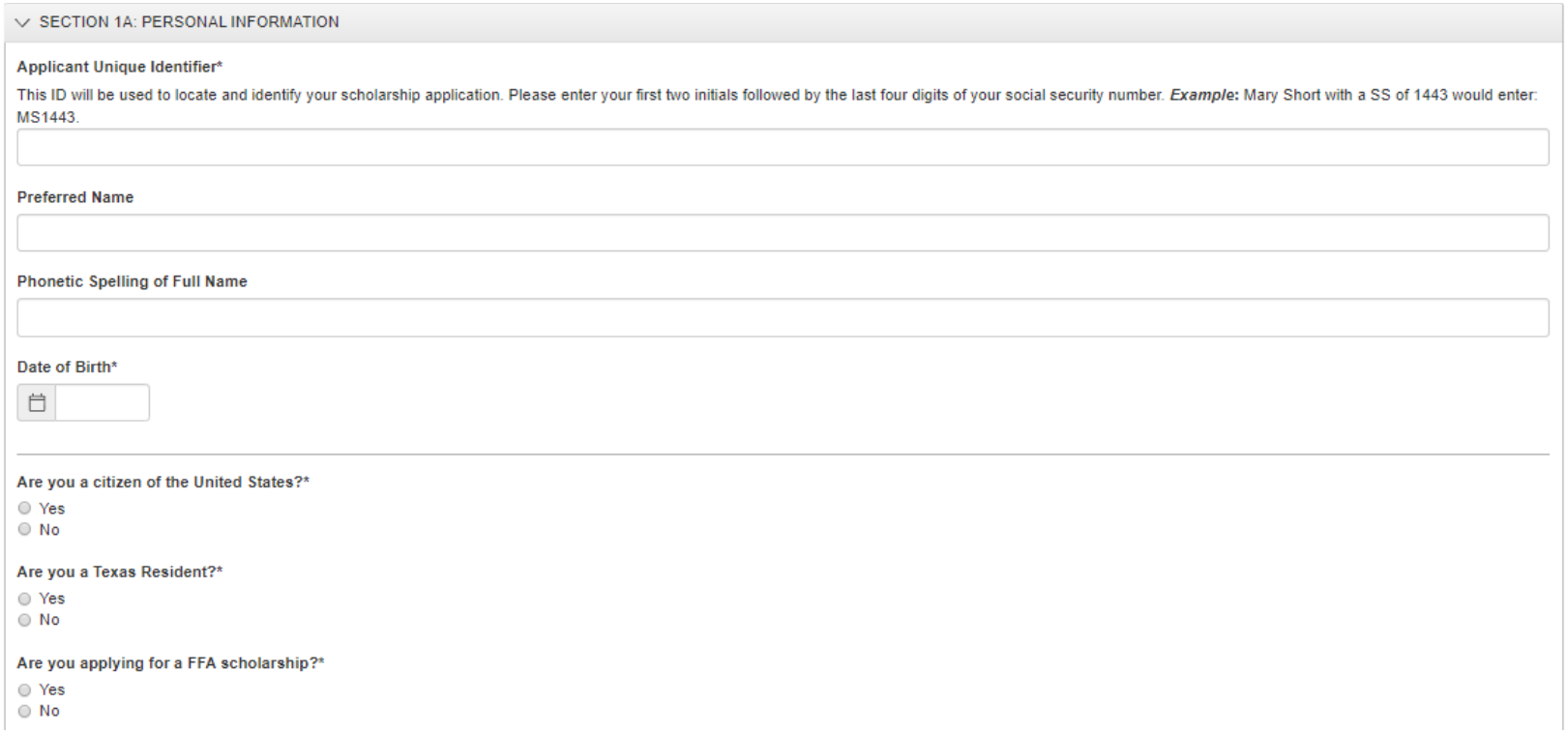


Application Sections

SECTION 1A: Personal Information

- Preferred Name
- Phonetic Spelling of Full Name
- Date of Birth
- Are you a citizen of the United States?
- Are you a Texas resident?
- Are you applying for a FFA scholarship?

Personal Information



SECTION 1A: PERSONAL INFORMATION

Applicant Unique Identifier*

This ID will be used to locate and identify your scholarship application. Please enter your first two initials followed by the last four digits of your social security number. ***Example*:** Mary Short with a SS of 1443 would enter: MS1443.

Preferred Name

Phonetic Spelling of Full Name

Date of Birth*

Are you a citizen of the United States?*

- Yes
- No

Are you a Texas Resident?*

- Yes
- No

Are you applying for a FFA scholarship?*

- Yes
- No

SECTION 1B: Demographics

- Gender
- Race/Ethnicity
- Home Residence Type

SECTION 1B: DEMOGRAPHICS

All information obtained in this section has no bearing on your application submission, scoring or awarding. Information collected is solely used for reporting purposes.

Gender*

Race / Ethnicity: Check all that apply*

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American (Non-Hispanic)
- Hispanic or Latino (Any Subgroup)
- Multiracial or Other (Non-Hispanic)
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White (Non-Hispanic)
- Prefer not to respond

Home Residence*

- Farm
- Town under 10,000 and rural non-farm
- Town/City 10,000 - 50,000 and its suburbs
- Suburb of city more than 50,000
- Central city more than 50,000

SECTION 1C: District & County Information

- Extension District
- County in which you are a member of 4-H
- Primary Club Name
- How many years have you been an enrolled 4-H member?
- County Extension Agent Name
- County Extension Agent Phone Number
- County Extension Agent Email

SECTION 1C: DISTRICT & COUNTY INFORMATION

Extension District*

County in which you are a member of 4-H*

Primary Club Name*

How many years have you been an enrolled 4-H member?*

#

County Extension Agent Name*

County Extension Agent Phone Number*

Enter phone number in this format: XXX-XXX-XXXX.

County Extension Agent Email*

SECTION 2: College/University Information

- List in priority order up to two 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 the applicant plans on pursuing.

College/ University Information

SECTION 2: COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

List your top two colleges/universities that you have submitted applications to, status, and major/course of study in priority order. Any applicant planning for a baccalaureate degree must provide at least one four year college/university.

First Choice

First Choice College/University*

First Choice College/University - NOT LISTED/OTHER

First Choice College/University: Accepted?*

- Yes
- No

First Choice College/University: Major/Course of Study*

First Choice College/University: Major - NOT LISTED/OTHER

Second Choice

Second Choice College/University

Second Choice College/University - NOT LISTED/OTHER

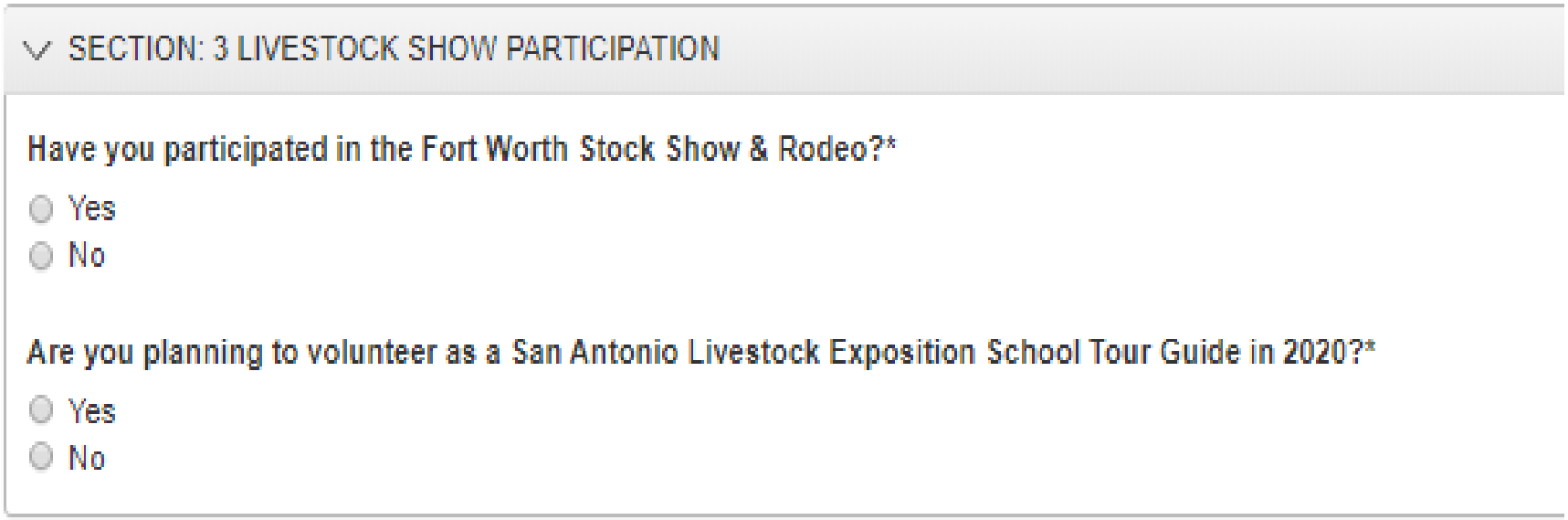
Second Choice College/University: Accepted?

- Yes
- No

Second Choice College/University: Major/Course of Study

SECTION 3: Livestock Show Participation

- Please list if you have or have not participated in the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show (Ft. Worth Stock Show & Rodeo).
- Are you planning to volunteer as a San Antonio Livestock Exposition School Tour Guide in 2024?

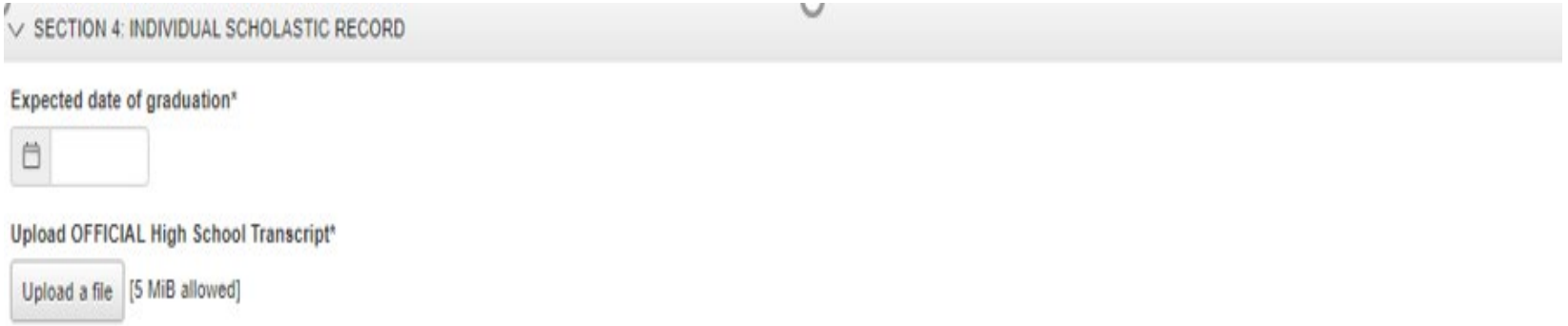


Individual Scholastic Record

SECTION 4: Individual Scholastic Record

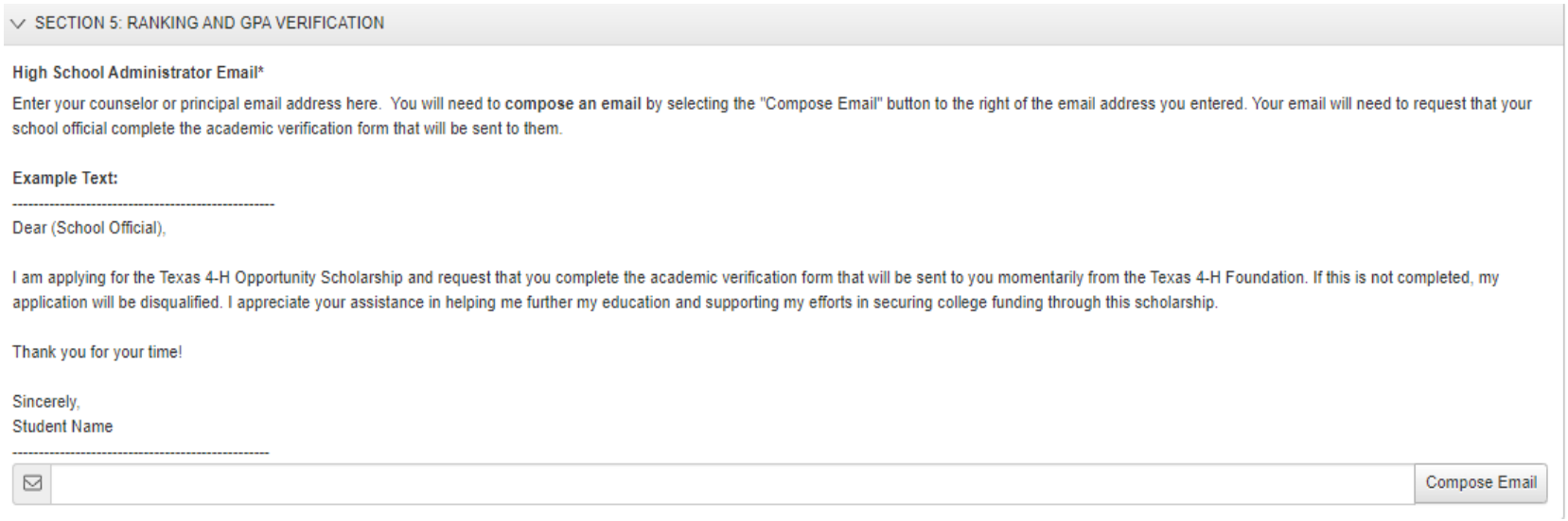
- Expected date of graduation
- Upload official High School Transcript – Should be uploaded as you received it from the counselor

Individual Scholastic Record



SECTION 5: Ranking & GPA Verification

Applicant will provide their counselor or school administrator's email address to request completion of this section. Follow the instructions highlighted in the section. Applicant will compose an email requesting completion of this section. Example below.


SECTION 5: RANKING AND GPA VERIFICATION

High School Administrator Email*

Enter your counselor or principal email address here. You will need to **compose an email** by selecting the "Compose Email" button to the right of the email address you entered. Your email will need to request that your school official complete the academic verification form that will be sent to them.

Example Text:

Dear (School Official),

I am applying for the Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship and request that you complete the academic verification form that will be sent to you momentarily from the Texas 4-H Foundation. If this is not completed, my application will be disqualified. I appreciate your assistance in helping me further my education and supporting my efforts in securing college funding through this scholarship.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,
Student Name

Compose Email

An email will be automatically sent to the administrator from the Texas 4-H Foundation with the form below.

Questions asked of the school administrator:

Name of High School*

Funding Classification of High School*

- Public
- Private
- Home School
- Other

Quartile Ranking in Graduating Class*

- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th

High School Grade Point Average (GPA)*

GPA should be through the latest semester completed. MUST BE PROVIDED ONLY ON THE BASIS OF A 100 POINT UNWEIGHTED SYSTEM WITH A MAXIMUM OF 100 POINTS. (I.e. 85 or 90, NOT 3.5 or 4.0). Extra points given for honors or AP classes should be excluded.

Has the applicant passed all required standardized test(s) in order to graduate and attend college?*

- Yes
- No

High School Administrator: Name*

High School Administrator: Official Title*

High School Administrator: Phone Number*

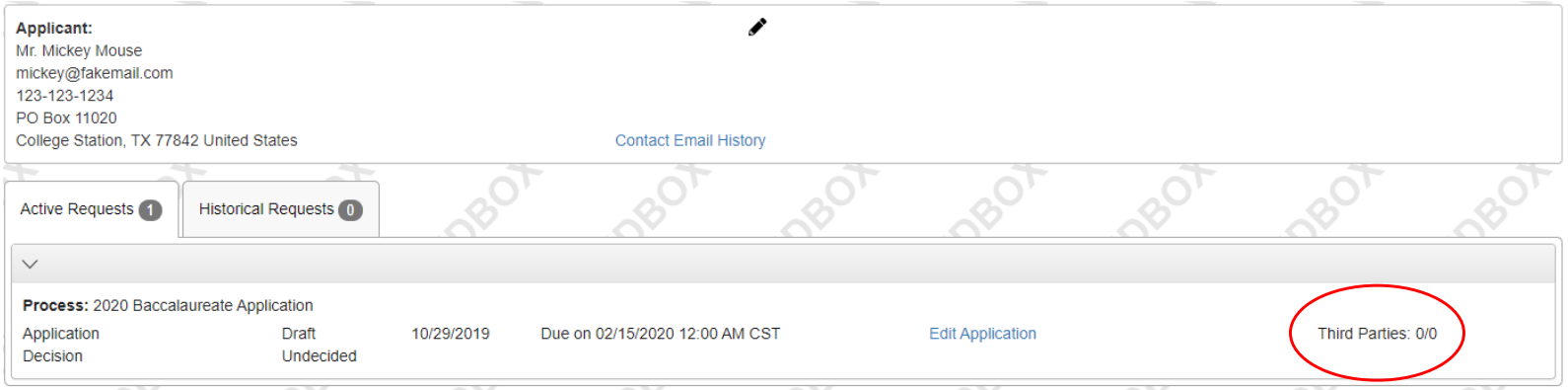
Please enter phone number in this format: XXX-XXX-XXXX

High School Administrator: Email Address*

Certification*

I certify that I am the appropriate party to provide the information asked above.

- The applicant will be able to see if the administrator has completed the request or not on their dashboard in the portal. The number represents received/sent.
- After 7 days from the original request, reminder emails will be sent to the administrator until the form has been completed.
- It is recommended that the applicant visit the administrator in person to follow-up on the request.



SECTION 6:Financial Information

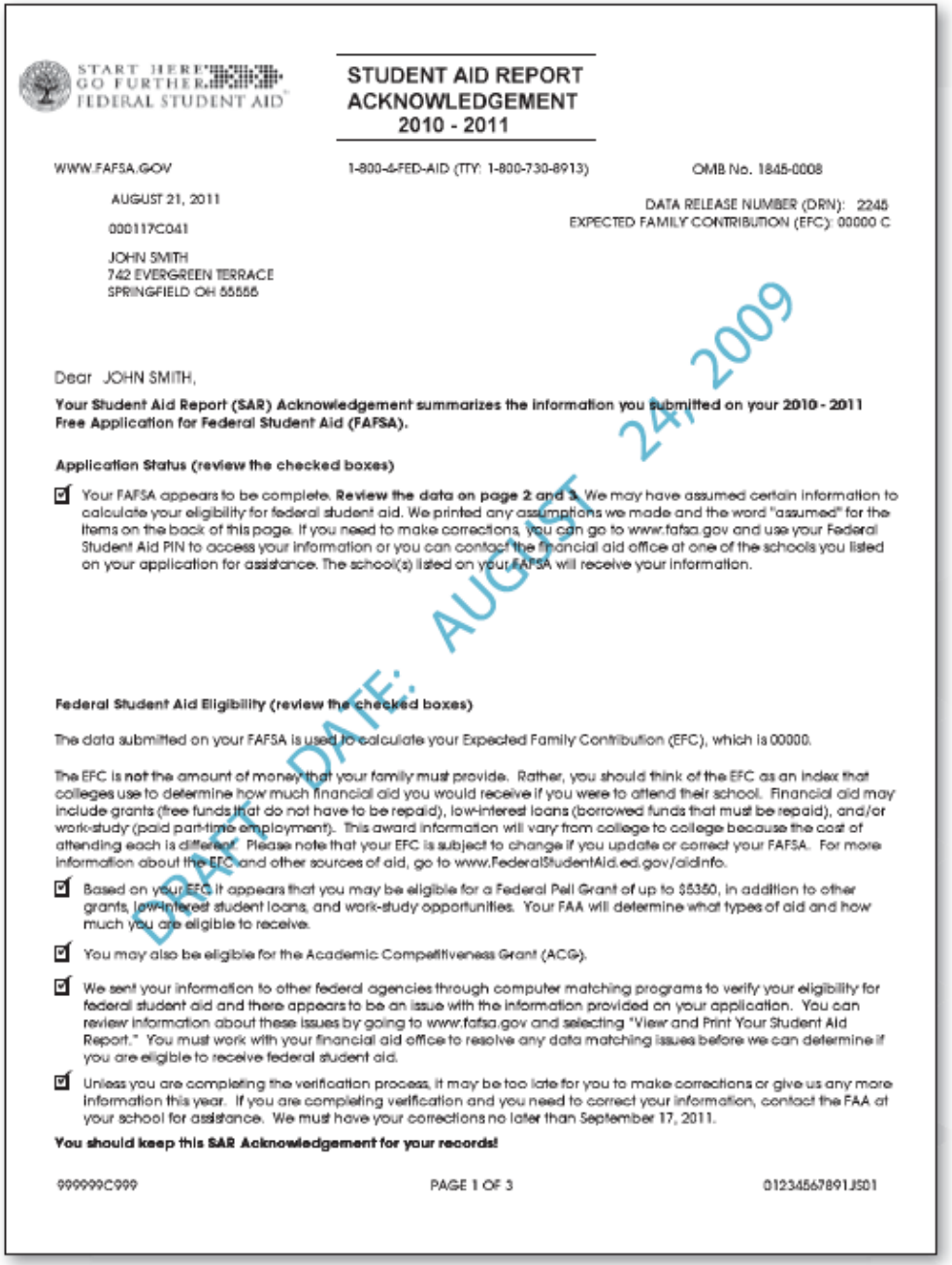
- Financial information will be collected and evaluated in two forms:
  - Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
  - Financial need narrative.

Screenshot the Preliminary EFC #

- It provides an Expected Financial Contribution, or EFC amount as to what can be planned on from parents/guardians.
- FAFSA takes approximately 3-4 weeks for processing.
- FAFSA also helps applicant know if they are eligible for other forms of financial aid/grants/loans. Form and process is accepted at all colleges and university.
- FAFSA website is: https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa
- Refer to Texas 4-H publication about the FAFSA for more details on completing the FAFSA application.
- Applicants will submit FAFSA – SAR report with application.

SECTION 6: Financial Information

Student Aid Report (SAR)



START HERE. GO FURTHER. FEDERAL STUDENT AID

STUDENT AID REPORT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 2010 - 2011

WWW.FAFSA.GOV | 1-800-4-FED-AID (TTY: 1-800-730-8913) | OMB No. 1845-0008

AUGUST 21, 2011

000117C041

JOHN SMITH
742 EVERGREEN TERRACE
SPRINGFIELD OH 55555

DATA RELEASE NUMBER (DRN): 2245
EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC): 00000 C

DRAFT DATE: AUGUST 24, 2009

Dear JOHN SMITH,

Your Student Aid Report (SAR) Acknowledgement summarizes the information you submitted on your 2010 - 2011 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Application Status (review the checked boxes)

☑ Your FAFSA appears to be complete. **Review the data on page 2 and 3.** We may have assumed certain information to calculate your eligibility for federal student aid. We printed any assumptions we made and the word "assumed" for the items on the back of this page. If you need to make corrections, you can go to www.fafsa.gov and use your Federal Student Aid PIN to access your information or you can contact the financial aid office at one of the schools you listed on your application for assistance. The school(s) listed on your FAFSA will receive your information.

Federal Student Aid Eligibility (review the checked boxes)

The data submitted on your FAFSA is used to calculate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is 00000.

The EFC is **not** the amount of money that your family must provide. Rather, you should think of the EFC as an index that colleges use to determine how much financial aid you would receive if you were to attend their school. Financial aid may include grants (free funds that do not have to be repaid), low-interest loans (borrowed funds that must be repaid), and/or work-study (paid part-time employment). This award information will vary from college to college because the cost of attending each is different. Please note that your EFC is subject to change if you update or correct your FAFSA. For more information about the EFC and other sources of aid, go to www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/aidinfo.

☑ Based on your EFC it appears that you may be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant of up to $5350, in addition to other grants, low-interest student loans, and work-study opportunities. Your FAA will determine what types of aid and how much you are eligible to receive.

☑ You may also be eligible for the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG).

☑ We sent your information to other federal agencies through computer matching programs to verify your eligibility for federal student aid and there appears to be an issue with the information provided on your application. You can review information about these issues by going to www.fafsa.gov and selecting "View and Print Your Student Aid Report." You must work with your financial aid office to resolve any data matching issues before we can determine if you are eligible to receive federal student aid.

☑ Unless you are completing the verification process, it may be too late for you to make corrections or give us any more information this year. If you are completing verification and you need to correct your information, contact the FAA at your school for assistance. We must have your corrections no later than September 17, 2011.

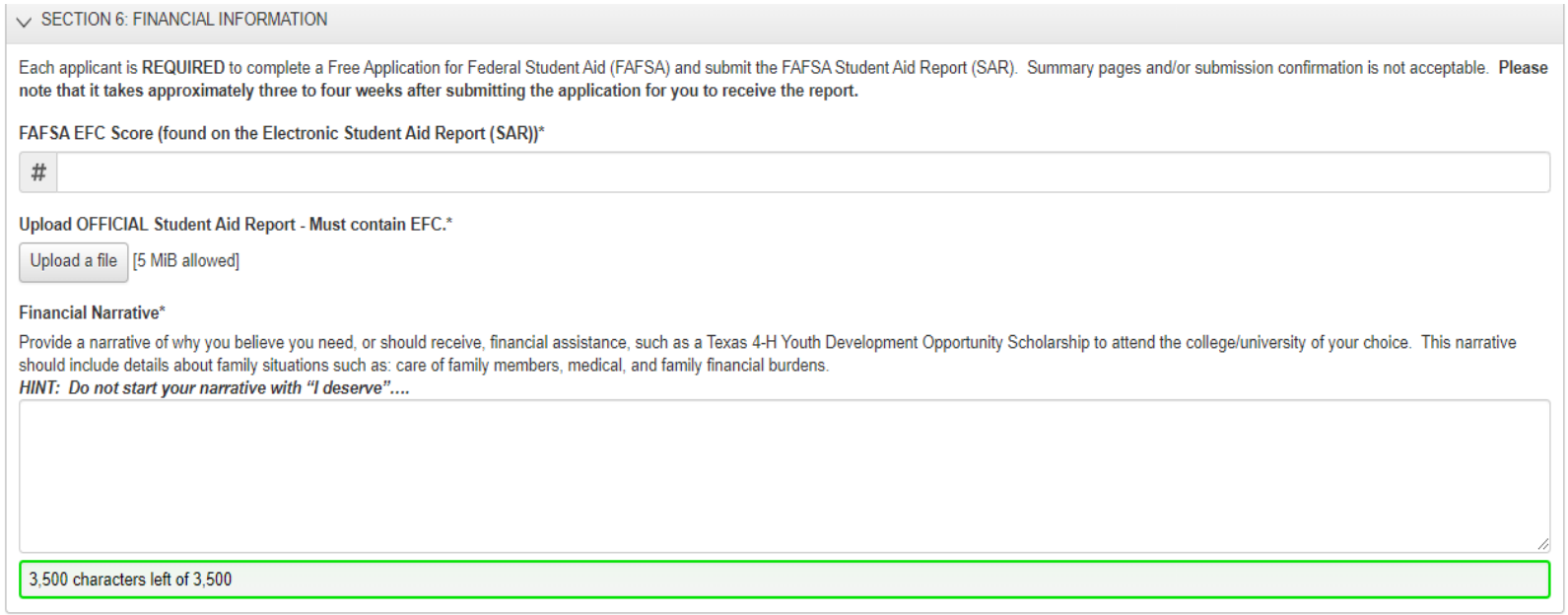
You should keep this SAR Acknowledgement for your records!

999999C999 | PAGE 1 OF 3 | 01234567891J501

SECTION 6: Financial Narrative

- When writing the narrative, let the judges know why you need financial aid.
  (HINT: DO NOT start the narrative with the words "I deserve this ……"). Even if you have a high FASFA score you can still score points for the Financial section here!
- Information pertaining to cost of college can be received from University's financial aid department, University catalog, or Texas Higher Education Board website: http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/ .
- Tell Your Story – good or bad
- Do you plan to work while in college?

Financial Information



SECTIONS 6: Experience, Honors, & Narratives

- Information for completing Section 7 can be from:
  - Applicant's 4-H Record Book
  - Past award applications
  - 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 is listed under each question in the application.
  - ***There are character limits for this section. It is recommended to complete your response in Word and copy/paste into the text field.***
  - ***There is option to upload a document***

SECTION 6:Project 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 year as it is with the record books).***
  - Describe why these projects were important and what impact the applicant's involvement provided to other people.

Project Experience

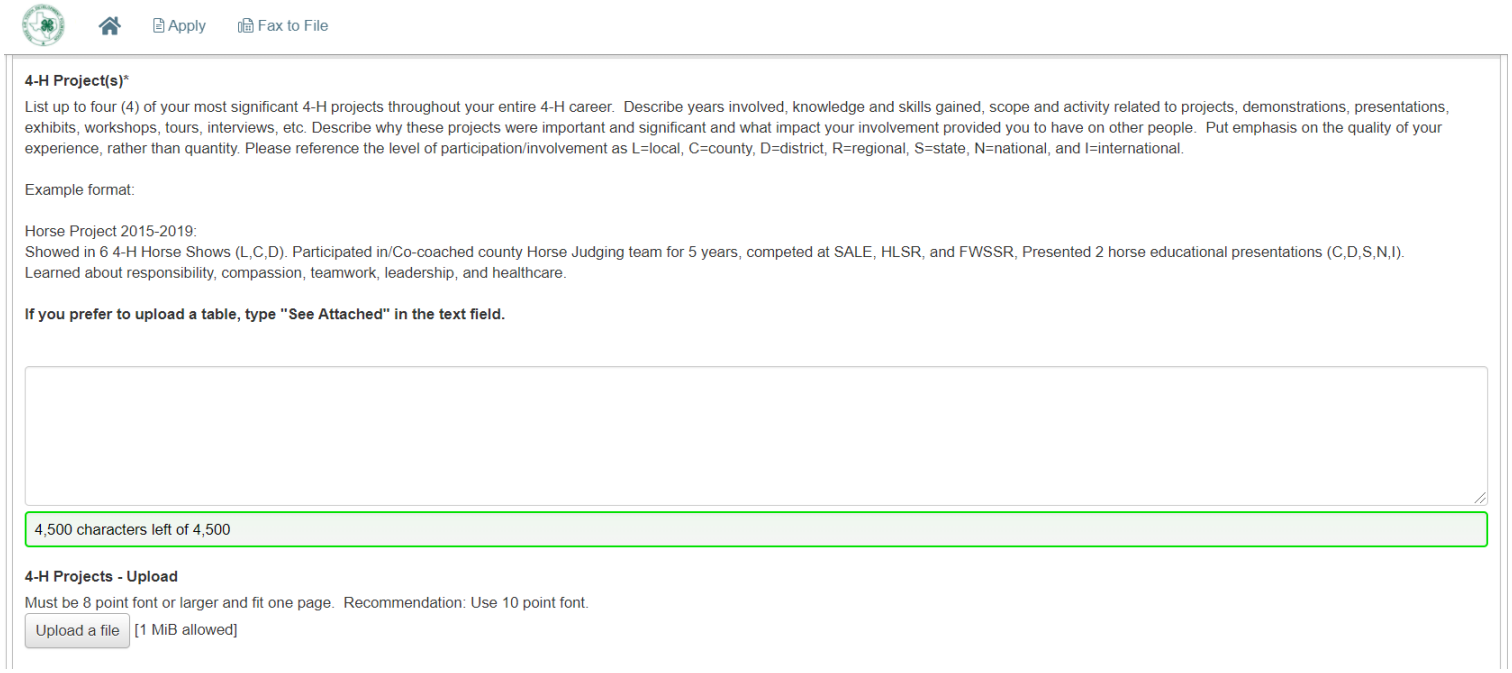
EXAMPLE FORMAT:

Horse Project 2015-2019:

Showed in 6 4-H Horse Shows (L,C,D). Participated in/Co-coached county Horse Judging team for 5 years, competed at SALE, HLSR, and FWSSR, Presented 2 horse educational presentations (C,D,S,N,I).

Learned about responsibility, compassion, teamwork, leadership, and healthcare.

You can type directly in the box provided or you may submit a one-page word document upload. You will need to type “see attachment” if submitting an upload.



SECTION 7:Leadership Experience

- Leadership Roles
  - List up to 20 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.

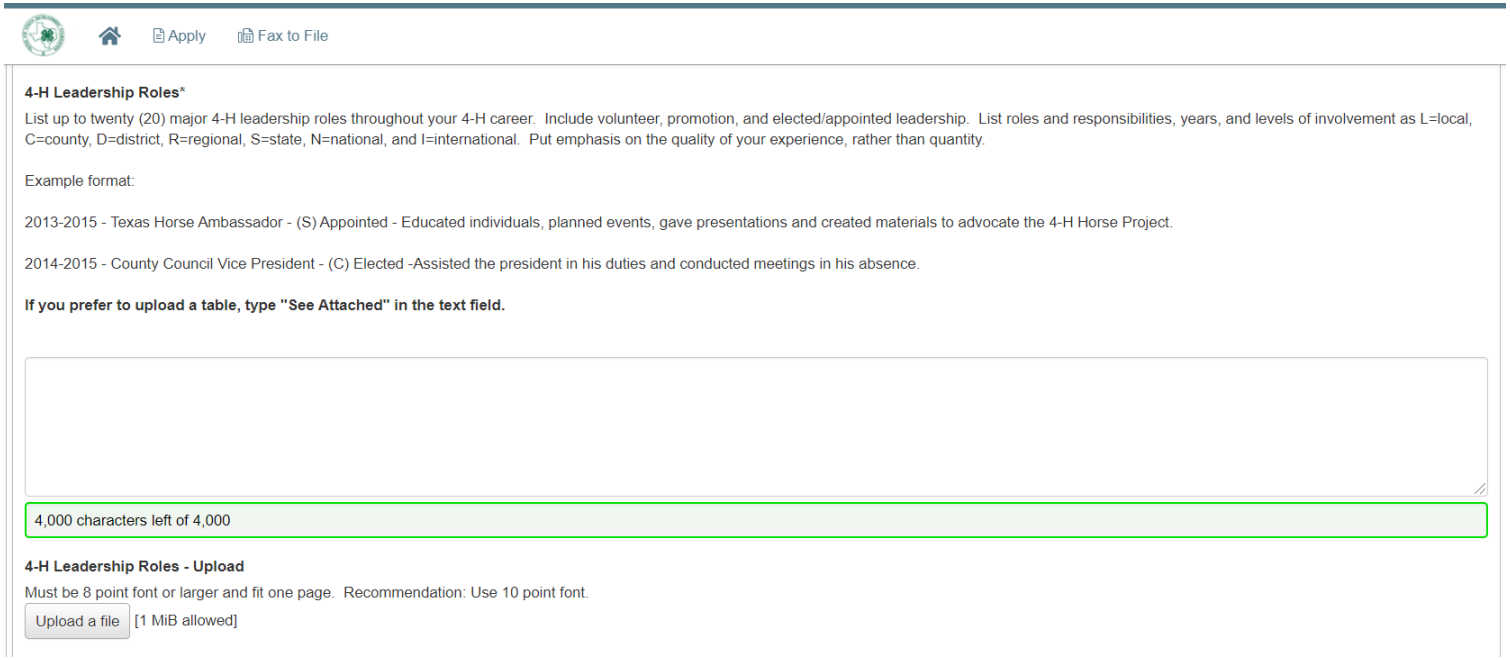
Leadership Experience

Example format:

2013-2015 - Texas Horse Ambassador - (S) Appointed - Educated individuals, planned events, gave presentations and created materials to advocate the 4-H Horse Project.

2014-2015 - County Council Vice President - (C) Elected -Assisted the president in his duties and conducted meetings in his absence.

You can type directly in the box provided or you may submit a one-page word document upload. You will need to type “see attachment” if submitting an upload.



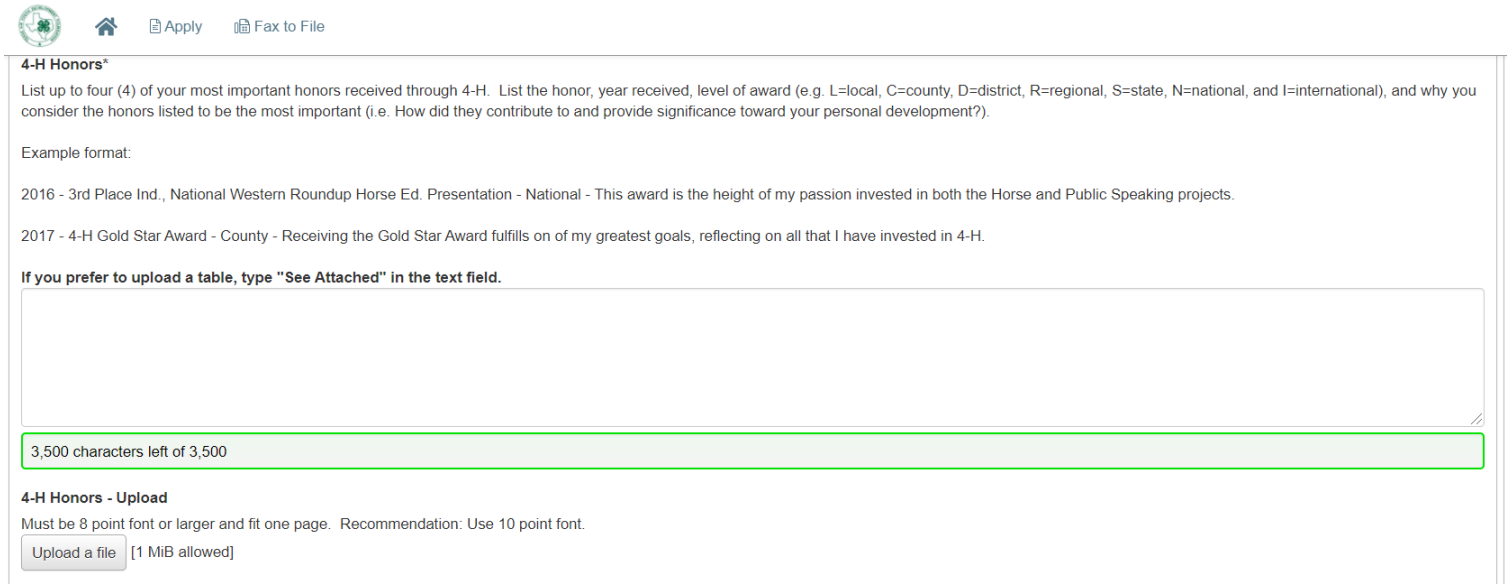
SECTION 7:Citizenship/Community Service Experience & Honors

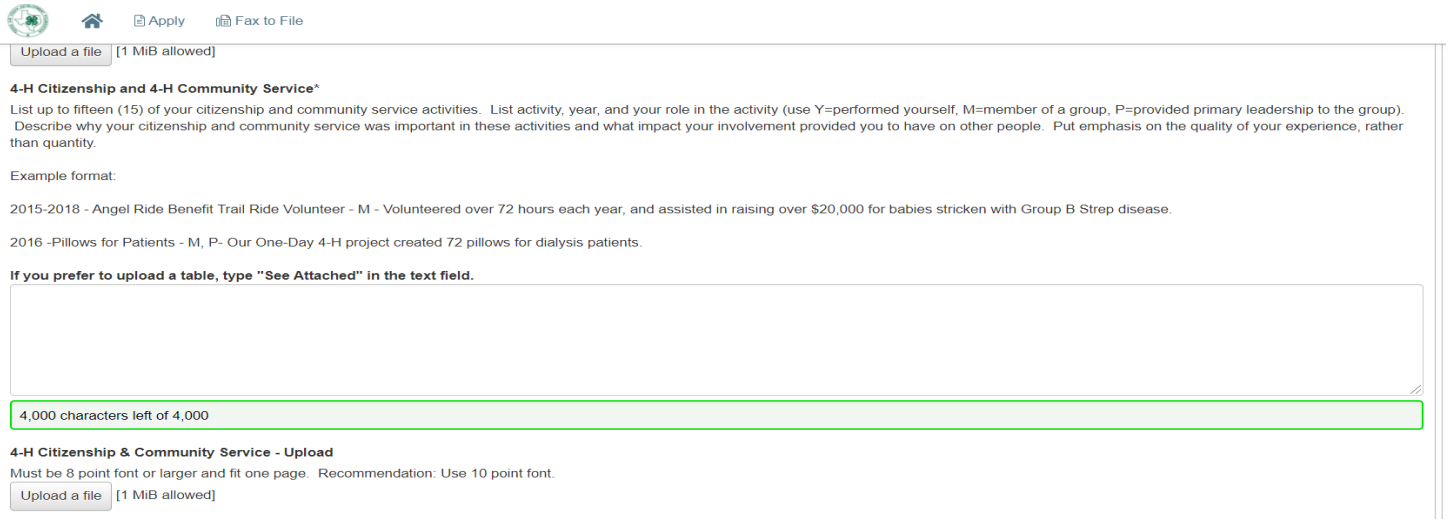
- Citizenship and Community Service
  - List up to 15 major citizenship and community service projects.
  - List roles and responsibilities, years, levels of involvement, duties and accomplishments.
  - Briefly describe why the activities were important and what impact the applicant's involvement provided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

SECTION 7:Citizenship/Community Service Experience & Honors

- 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).

Honors, Citizenship, & Community Service





SECTION 7: Outside 4-H Experience

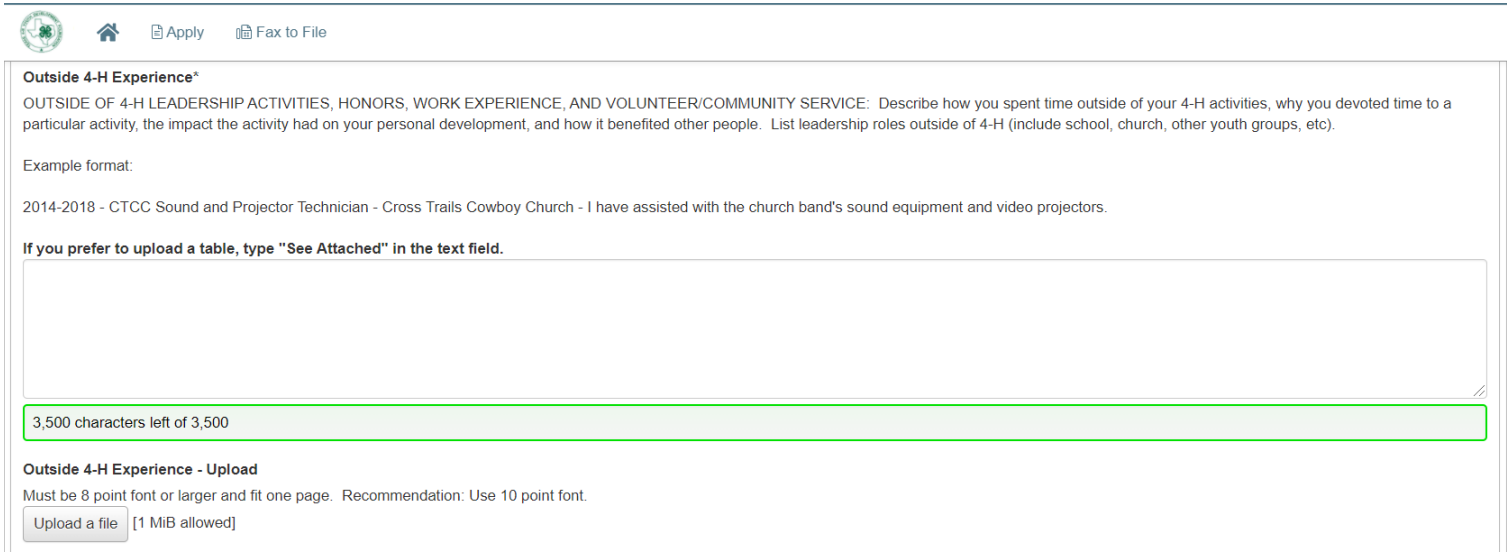
- Outside of 4-H Leadership Activities, Honors, Work Experience, Volunteering/Community Service.
  - Describe how applicant spent time outside of 4-H activities, why they devoted time to a particular activity and the impact the activity had on their personal development and how it has benefited other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

Outside 4-H Experience

Example format:

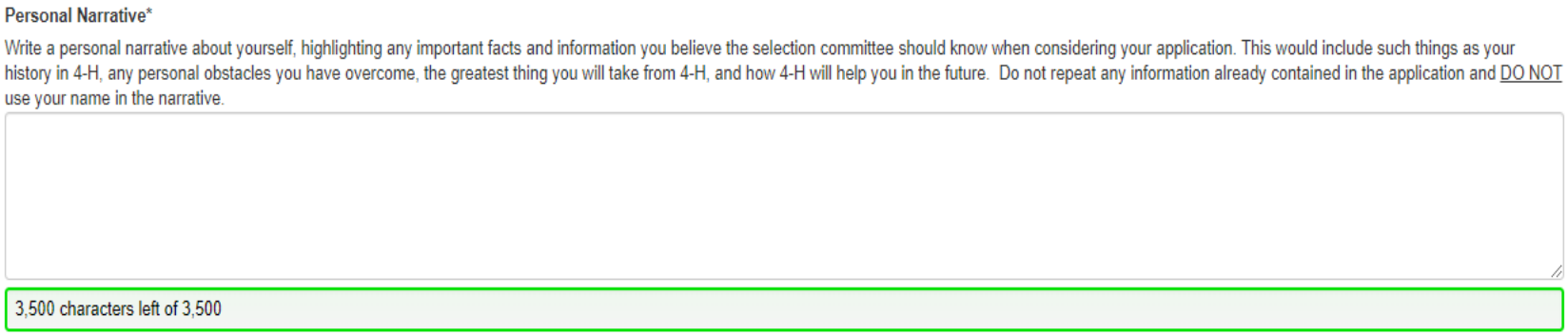
2014-2018 - CTCC Sound and Projector Technician - Cross Trails Cowboy Church - I have assisted with the church band's sound equipment and video projectors.

You can type directly in the box provided or you may submit a one-page word document upload. You will need to type “see attachment” if submitting an upload.



SECTION 7: Personal Narrative

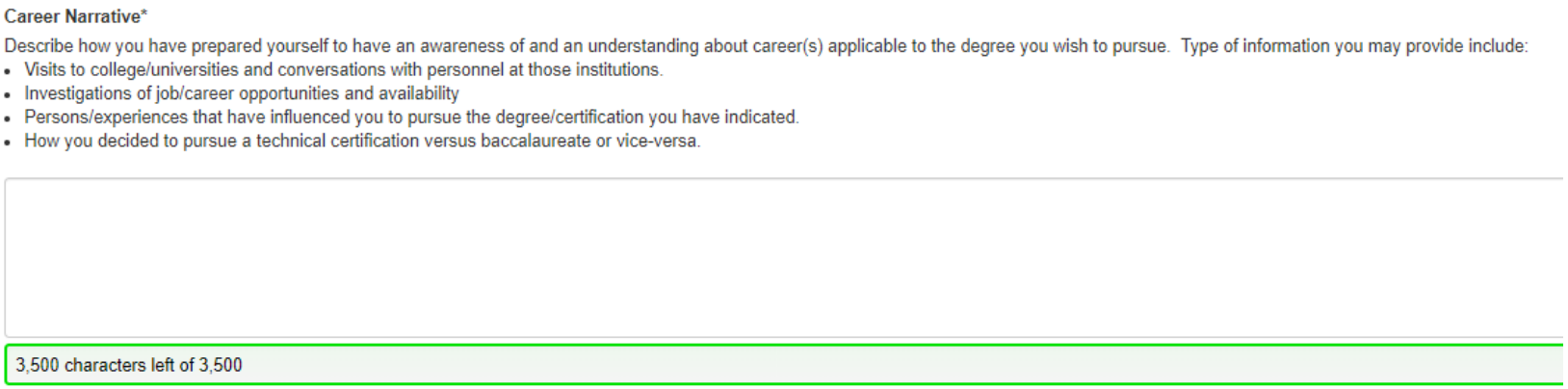
- Applicant must write a personal narrative about themselves, highlighting any important facts and information they believe the selection committee should know when considering the application.
- Include any personal obstacles that the applicant has over come during their 4-H career.
- Space should be used wisely and do not repeat, or re-list information already addressed in the application.
- DO NOT use your name in the narrative.



SECTION 7: 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 8: Acknowledgement of Integrity, Participation, and Certification

- By checking the box on your application, applicant agrees to the integrity of the information they are submitting.

HINT: It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure their transcript is correct.

Acknowledge of Integrity…

SECTION 8: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INTEGRITY, PARTICIPATION, ...

Acknowledgement*

I, the applicant, certify that the information contained herein is correct and truthfully reflects my personal, 4-H, and academic records. I agree that, if any information contained herein is found to be falsified, my application will become null and void and any awarded scholarship revoked.

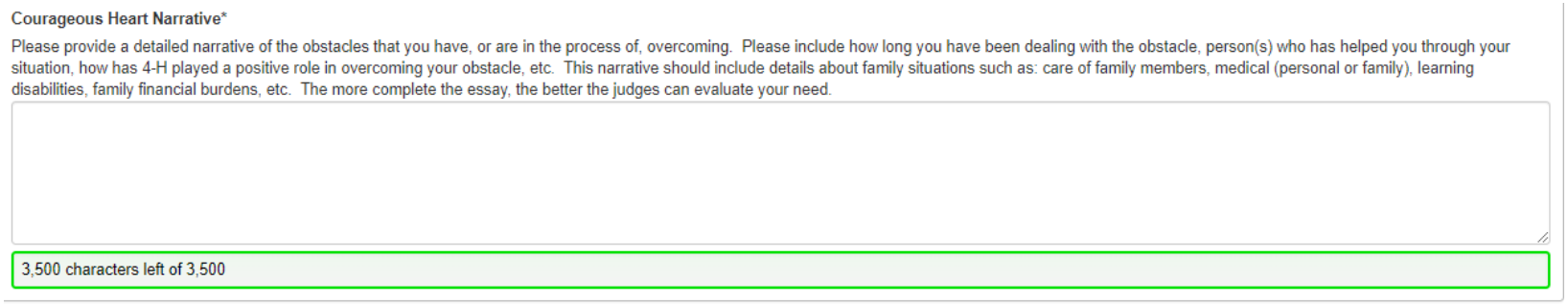
I hereby authorize any person or entity to release to the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation, information concerning the subject matter of the statements I have made in this application, including, but not limited to, information concerning my academic record, activities, and financial situation.

As an applicant, I agree that I will participate in all activities related to being considered for and recognized as a Texas 4-H Scholar. This includes my participation in the interviews, scholarship banquet and assembly. I acknowledge that failure to participate, from any, or all, scholarship activities will result in no further consideration, awarding, or payment if chosen as a 4-H Scholar.

☐ I certify and agree to the terms listed above.

Courageous Heart Applicant Information

- Courageous Heart applicants must provide detail narrative of the family, school, or medical obstacle that the applicant has experienced and has over come.
- Provide three references for the applicant. References should be able to provide detail information pertaining to the applicant's obstacle.
- Three (3) letters of recommendations from the above-mentioned references speaking of the applicant's obstacle, how they have over come the obstacle, and how they have continued to be a strong, involved 4-H member.



Courageous Heart References

Please provide **three** letters of recommendation. Recommendation letters should provide detailed information on the obstacle, how the applicant has overcome the described obstacle and continued to be successful in their 4-H career and education, along with specific reasons the applicant should be considered for the Courageous Heart Scholarship.
Letters should be a maximum of one page in length.

REFERENCE #1

Reference #1: First and Last Name*

Reference #1: Email Address*

Reference #1: Phone Number*

Reference #1: Relationship to Applicant*

Reference #1: Letter of Recommendation*

Upload a file [5 MiB allowed]

Application Review and Assistance

County Extension Agent Reviews

- Agent can help review application for correctness, quality and completion but it is up to the applicant to contact the agent.
- Applicants have ability to collaborate with agents within the application portal using the collaborate tool. Instructions can be found on the Foundation website.

Important Dates and Deadlines

- December 2023:Applicant complete FASFA
- Application Opens: November 1st
- Application Deadline: February 15th @ 11:59 PM
- CEA Approval Deadline: February 23rd @ 5:00 PM
- Interviews: April 26th – April 28th
- Award Notifications (Tentative): Mid May
- Scholarship Banquets: June 4th – 6th

Tips for Preparing the Application

- Start Early – ensure applicant has submitted the FAFSA.
- Brainstorm and gather information before you start.
- Read and follow instructions/directions.
- Ask several people that the applicant respects to review and critique the application.
- Complete all sections – **Not Applicable means NO SCORE!**
- Emphasize quality – as well as quantity!

Things to Remember

- This is a **COMPETITVE ACADEMIC** scholarship process.
- An 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!

Things to Remember

- No quotas are set for counties, districts, or regions!
- Fort Worth Stock Show is the only livestock show donor that requires participation in their show.
- DONORS set the criteria!
- Make sure high school academic proficiency has been met and college entrance exams have been taken early and often.

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.
- Scholarships 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 THE APPLICANT!**

Things to Remember

- 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.

The number one thing to remember:

START EARLY, EDIT OFTEN!