

2026

TEXAS 4-H OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP TRAINING



Introduction

- The scholarship program is overseen by the Texas4-H Youth Development Foundation.
- An estimated \$2.7 million will be given at the Texas 4-H Roundup Scholarship Assembly in June.
- Approximately 225 scholarships will be awarded in 2026.
- 4-H Scholarships are *ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS* awarded based on academic record, 4-H experience, and financial need.



Recent Program Changes

- Members receiving a Terry Scholarship or Thoma Scholarship are NOT eligible to receive a Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship.
- We WILL be requiring a CEA Verification Form be uploaded prior to submitting the application by the February 15th Deadline.
- ACT/SAT is not required again this year for the 4-H Opportunity Scholarship. There is a possibility that it will be required for the 2027 application process.
- If selected, you will be required to attend an interview. If you are chosen to receive a scholarship you are required to attend the banquet and assembly at Texas 4-H Roundup.
- Applicants invited to interview will do a "self sign-up" for interview time (first come-first serve).
- Collegiate Scholarships will not be awarded in 2026
- We will award one \$30,000 scholarship. Our top ranking scholars after interviews will be invited back for a virtual interview to determine.

Major Scholarship Donor Criteria

General Eligibility to apply is <u>not</u> limited to the top $\frac{1}{2}$ (50%) of class. Youth in the 3^{rd} or 4^{th} 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

MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP DONOR CRITERIA

Donors of scholarship funds establish the criteria that must be followed by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation when considering applicants for scholarships. Applicants will only be considered for those Opportunity Scholarships for which they are fully qualified as determined by donor criteria. Interpretation of the donor criteria is the sole responsibility and at the sole discretion of the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation in consultation with donor representatives. Decisions regarding eligibility and qualifications are final. Criteria is not finalized until donor confirmations are received. The information provided below was the criteria established for the awarding of a few of the major 2025 scholarship donors and is for reference only for applicants to see the type of criteria assigned to scholarships. There are many other donors not listed on this chart because they do not have ranking, or stock show participation restrictions.

SCHOLARSHIP	CLASS RANK	MAJOR	GPA	Participated AT SHOW
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo	TOP 1/4	NO	NO	NO
Rodeo Austin	TOP 1/4	NO	90% or higher	YES
Fort Worth Stock Syndicate	TOP 1/2	YES Ag. & Life Science	NO	NO
Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo	TOP 1/2	NO	NO	YES

Scholarships Available





Baccalaureate

*Students pursuing a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts.

*Some scholarships require applicants to be in the upper onequarter (1/4) of his/her class.

Technical

* 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.

*Can only apply for 1!



Courageous Heart

*Students pursuing a bachelors degree or technical certification.

*have overcome obstacles related to medical, family, and/or education.

*Have WRITTEN documentation of obstacles.

*Maximum Scholarship value is \$5,000.

General Eligibility Requirements

- Currently active Texas 4-H member and for at least 2 of the last 3 years for a minimum of 3 years participation.
- Be a United States citizen.
- Be a Texas resident.
- Scheduled to graduate from a Texas High School (public, private, home) during the 2025-2026 year.
- Been accepted into a Texas College/University or technical school by the time of interview.
- Must submit a completed transcript showing 3.5 years of coursework WITH GRADES.

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 2026 scholarship application in the Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship Portal How to Apply Texas 4-H Foundation (texas4hfoundation.org)
- Only required supplemental documents have been included Transcript, FAFSA, CEA Verification Form, GPA Verification Form (counselor fills out and submits), CH letters.
- DO NOT submit an application before fall grades have been added to the transcript. (In most cases, this will be at the end of the fall semester).
- Once submitted, no updates are allowed.

Basic Scholar Expectations

Basic Scholar Expectations

There are certain expectations for the scholars who receive Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarships.

These expectations are laid out in detail in the Scholar Handbook.

<u>Updates & Resources - Texas 4-H Foundation (texas4hfoundation.org)</u>

- Maintain a 2.0 GPA.
- Be enrolled in 12 credit hours at an accredited Texas University/College.
- Send an update letter to your donor each semester.
- Meet semester reporting deadlines to receive funds for the upcoming semester.
 - Must provide a transcript, class schedule with total credit hours, and a copy of your donor update letter.

https://texas4hfoundation.org/updates-resources/

FAFSA

- The FAFSA will open by October 1st. MUST BE COMPLETED BY JANUARY 31st.
- The SAR report (generated from FAFSA) is now called the FAFSA Submission Summary. This will still be a requirement to submit Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarships.
- PLEASE watch <u>studentaid.gov</u> for updates and complete as soon as it opens, to ensure that you have the Submission Summary in time to submit the scholarship application.
- You will get a "Preliminary SAI Number." Screenshot that page and if necessary, you can upload that into the application portal. SAI was formerly known as EFC.
- If you start to run into delays in receiving your SAI stay in contact with your CEA. They may advise you to contact the Texas 4-H Foundation office.

Myths about Financial Aid



Myths:

- *My parents make too much money, so I'll never qualify.
- *Only people with perfect GPAs get scholarships.
- *You can only get financial aid if you pay someone to help you find it.



Truths:

- *Even a millionaire can receive financial aid.
- *Scholarships are not always awarded based solely on GPA.
- *You don't need to pay anyone for help — build a positive relationship with your university's financial aid office!

2026 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.
- Applications and instructions available from the County Extension Office or the Texas 4-H Foundation website at: <u>How to Apply-Texas 4-H</u> <u>Foundation</u>

Items Needed to Complete Application

- 4-H Record Book(s) or participation information to help complete the scholarship application. **But are not required**
- 2026 Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Application Guidelines.
- Official high school transcript with either school seal or original signature of counselor/principal.
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) FAFSA Submission Summary with SAI.
- CEA Verification Form (applicant uploads)
- GPA Verification Form (counselor fills out)

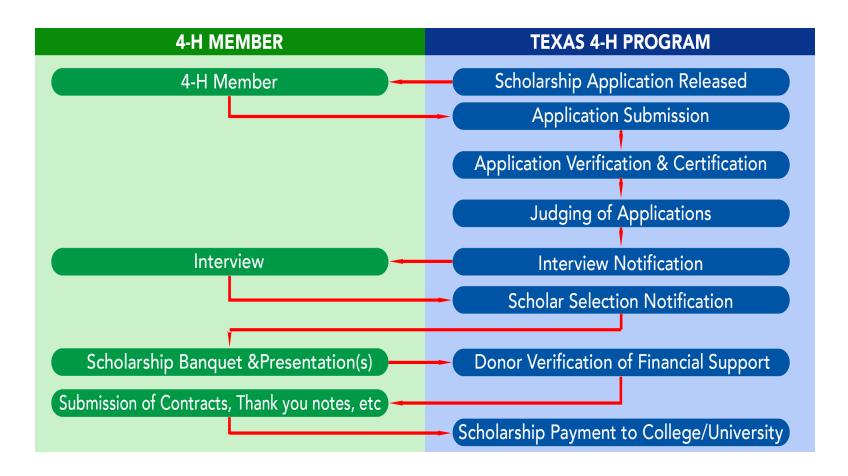
Important Dates

Deadlines & Dates for 2026

By January 31, 2026	Applicant must complete 2026-2027 FAFSA Application
By February 15, 2026 at 11:59 pm *There will be no exceptions to this deadline*	Application must be complete and submitted through the portal
Early April 2026	Interview notifications will be emailed out
April 24 – 26, 2026 in College Station *This is mandatory to receive a scholarship*	Interviews will take place for those selected to interview. Day & time signups will be offered.
June 3 & 4, 2026 in College Station *Attendance is mandatory to receive a scholarship*	Scholarship Banquets & Award Ceremonies will take place. The banquet date depends on the specific scholarship you receive.

Those invited for a second interview, it will be virtually the week after in-person interviews

Scholarship Process



Scoring

Scoring System

As determined by the scholarship judges, scores are assigned based on level of achievement in the scoring categories. The scoring categories and system for the Opportunity Scholarship process are as follows.

Scoring Category	Baccalaureate	Technical	Courageous Heart
4-H Experience & Narratives	70 total	75 total	40 total
Projects Leadership Citizenship & Community Service Honors Outside 4-H Experiences/Leadership Personal Narrative Career Narrative	12 12 12 5 5 12	12 12 12 5 5 12	8 8 5 3 3 4 4
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 for possibly the next several years! NOT A HIGH SCHOOL EMAIL.
- 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.

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



Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation

Instructions /

Logon Page

Email Address*	
Password*	
Log On Create New Account	
Forgot your Password?	

Welcome to Texas 4-H Foundation's Scholarship Portal!

First time here?

Click "Create New Account". If you need assistance, please refer to the "How To" guide on our Scholarship Resources page of the Texas 4-H Foundation website. Be sure to keep this login information for your records as you will use this portal through the life-cycle of your scholarship, should you be awarded.

TIP: This email address is the one we will use to communicate with you if we have questions, which sometimes require immediate response. It is imperative to monitor your emails throughout this process.

Been here before?

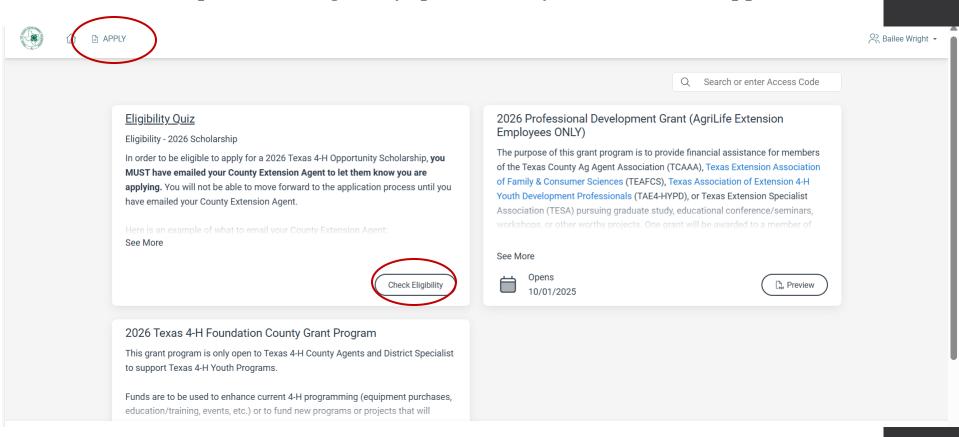
If you have already used our new scholarship portal, but have forgotten your password, please click "Forgot Your Password?" and follow the instructions

Not sure?

If you believe you already have a profile but you are unsure of the login information, **DO NOT** create a new profile. Doing so could result in loss of historical information of your scholarship. Instead, please contact 4hscholarships@ag.tamu.edu.

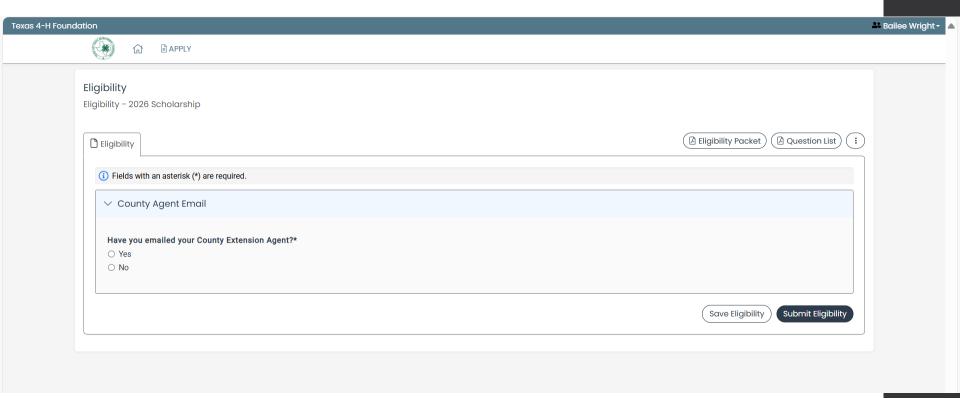
Eligibility Quiz - NEW

- After creating an account, BEFORE you will have access to the applications, you MUST email your CEA letting them know you are applying.
- You will complete the eligibility quiz before you can see the applications



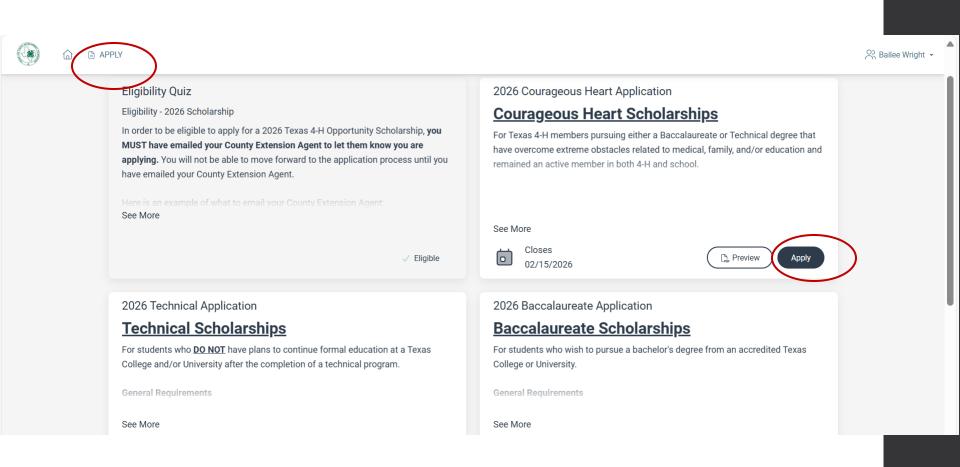
Eligibility Quiz - NEW

- In the eligibility quiz you will confirm that you have emailed your CEA.
- THIS IS A VITAL STEP TO LET YOUR CEA KNOW YOU ARE APPLYING!



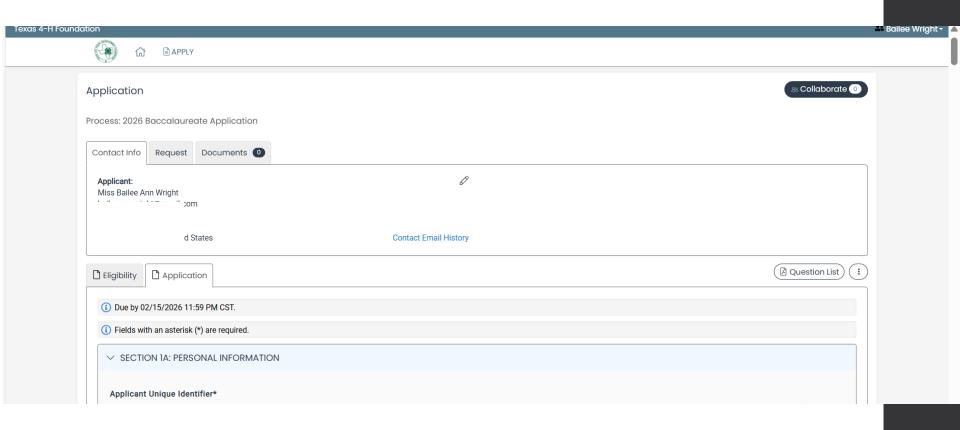
Start Application

- After completing the eligibility quiz, click the "Apply" button at the top of the page to view all available applications.
- Then you can select which of the 3 applications you would like to start



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

Section 1B: Demographics

Section 1C: District & County Information

Section 2: College/University Information

Section 3: Livestock Show Participation

Section 4: Individual Scholastic Record

Section 5: Ranking & GPA Verification

Section 6: Financial Information

Section 7: Experience, Honors, and Narratives

Section 8: Acknowledgement of Integrity

Section 1A 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?* O Yes No
Are you a Texas Resident?* O Yes No
Are you applying for a FFA scholarship?* O Yes No

Section 1B Demographics

SECTION 1B: DEMOGRAPHICS	
Il information obtained in this section has no bearing on your application submission, scoring or awarding. Information collected is solely used for r	eporting purposes.
ender*	
ace / 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	
ome 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

●
✓ SECTION IC: 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 Email*
County Extension Agent Phone Number* Enter phone number in this format: XXX-XXX-XXXX.
County Extension Agent Verification Form* You MUST have this form signed by your County Extension Agent and upload it into the portal BEFORE the February 15th deadline.
CEA VERIFCATION FORM Reach out to your CEA early in the process and let them know that you will need this form signed! Make sure they will be in office when you need it signed. Your agent will likely request to see your application
before signing this form. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL LAST MINUTE TO ASK YOUR AGENT TO SIGN THIS. Upload a file [2 MiB allowed]

Section 2 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

✓ SECTION: 3 LIVESTOCK SHOW PARTICIPATION	
Have you participated in the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo?* O Yes No	
Have you participated in Rodeo Austin?* O Yes No	

Section 4 Individual Scholastic Record

✓ SECTION 4: INDIVIDUAL SCHOLASTIC RECORD
Expected date of graduation*
Upload OFFICIAL High School Transcript*
Make sure that your transcript shows 3.5 years of coursework with grades (grades through December of your SENIOR year). Make sure you get an UPDATED transcript to submit. Upload a file [3 MiB allowed]

Section 5 Ranking & GPA Verification

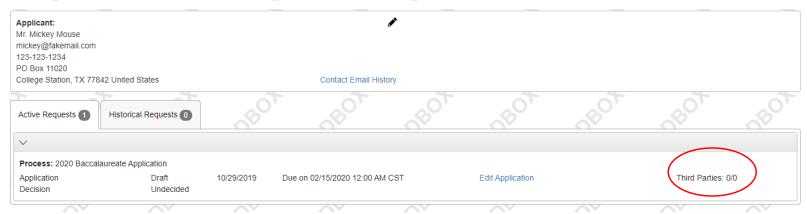
✓ SECTION 5: RANKING AND GPA VERIFICATION	
High School Administrator Email* Enter your counselor or principal email address here. You will need to compose an email by selecting the "Compose Email" button to the right of the email address you entered. Your email will nee your school official complete the academic verification form that will be sent to them.	d to request that
An email is not sent just by putting in the email address and hitting compose email. You will send it on the following screen.	
BE SURE TO FOLLOW UP WITH YOUR COUNSELOR TO MAKE SURE THEY HAVE RECEIVED AND COMPLETED THIS PORTION ON YOUR BEHALF. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTROL COMPLETE. WALK DOWN TO THEIR OFFICE AND VERIFY. They are busy too and things get lost. Don't take a chance!!!	ACT THEM TO
Your application will be marked INCOMPLETE, if this portion is not completed by the application deadline.	
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 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.	completed, my
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:

the Name of High School*
Example 2 Funding Classification of High School*
Public
Private
Home School
Other
Quartile Ranking in Graduating Class*
1st
② 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
tigh School Administrator: Name*
High School Administrator: Official Title*
484 Wint Cohord Administrator Dhora Number
High School Administrator: Phone Number*
Please enter phone number in this format: XXX-XXXX
tall High School Administrator: Email Address*
å 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

oundation	
☐ APPLY	ROLE (APPLICANT) ▼
✓ SECTION 6: FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
FAFSA SAI Score (found on the Electronic FAFSA Submission Summary) #	
Upload OFFICIAL FAFSA Submission Summary - Must contain SAI (Student Aid Index).* Upload a file [3 MiB allowed]	
Financial Narrative*	
Provide a narrative of why you believe you need, or should receive, financial assistance, such as a Texas 4-H Youth Development Opportunity Scl college/university of your choice. This narrative should include details about family situations such as: care of family members, medical, and fa HINT: Do not start your narrative with "I deserve"	
3 500 characters left of 3 500	

nagement Software provided by Foundant Technologies © 2024

- Financial information will be collected and evaluated in two forms:
 - Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - Financial need narrative.
- It provides a Student Aid Index, or SAI amount as to what can be planned on from parents/guardians.
- FAFSA takes approximately 3-4 weeks for processing.
- FAFSA also helps applicants 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: http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/
- Applicants will submit FAFSA Submission Summary with application.
- 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 the cost of college can be received from the University's financial aid department, university catalog, or Texas Higher Education Board website: http://www.collegefortexans.com.

Section 7 Experience, Honors, and Narratives

- Sections:
 - 4-H Projects
 - Leadership Roles
 - 4-H Honors
 - 4-H Citizenship & 4-H Community Service
 - Outside 4-H Experience
- Information for completing this section can be found from:

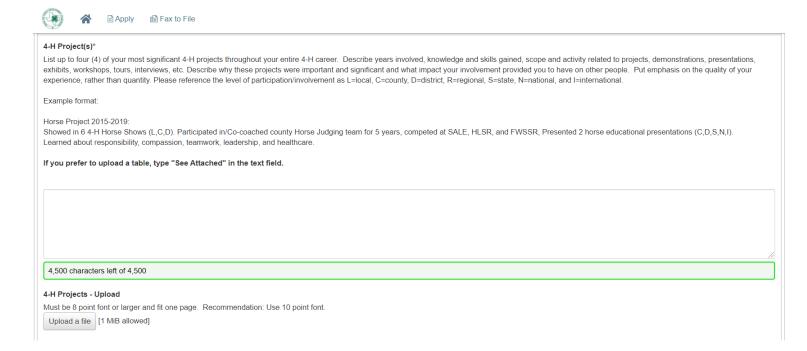
Applicant's 4-H Record Book Past award applications Other personal records

- Information must be presented in the space provided.
- Information listed should stress quality of the applicant's experiences rather than quantity.

4-H Projects

- List up to four (4) projects throughout the 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 4 years as it is with the record books*).
- Describe why these projects were important and what impact the applicant's involvement provided to other people.

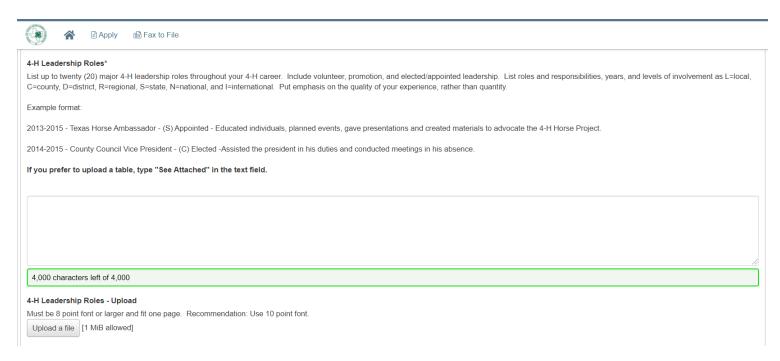
You can type directly in the box provided or you may submit a one-page word document upload. You will need to type "see attachment" if submitting an upload.



4-H 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 the applicant's experience rather than quantity.

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.



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 the applicant considers the honors listed to be the most important (i.e. how did they contribute to and provide significance toward their personal development).

1 U Uonore*

List up to four (4) of your most important honors received through 4-H. List the honor, year received, level of award (e.g. L=local, C=county, D=district, R=regional, S=state, N=national, and l=international), and why
you consider the honors listed to be the most important (i.e. How did they contribute to and provide significance toward your personal development?). Example format:
Example format.
2016 - 3rd Place Ind., National Western Roundup Horse Ed. Presentation - National - This award is the height of my passion invested in both the Horse and Public Speaking projects.
2017 - 4-H Gold Star Award - County - Receiving the Gold Star Award fulfills on of my greatest goals, reflecting on all that I have invested in 4-H.
If you prefer to upload a table, type "See Attached" in the text field.
3,500 characters left of 3,500
4-H Honors - Upload
Must be 8 point font or larger and fit one page. Recommendation: Use 10 point font.
Upload a file [1 MiB allowed]

4-H Citizenship & 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 the applicant's experience rather than quantity.

4-H Citizenship and 4-H Community Service*
List up to fifteen (15) of your citizenship and community service activities. List activity, year, and your role in the activity (use Y=performed yourself, M=member of a group, P=provided primary leadership to the group). Describe why your citizenship and community service was important in these activities and what impact your involvement provided you to have on other people. Put emphasis on the quality of your experience, rather than quantity.
Example format:
2015-2018 - Angel Ride Benefit Trail Ride Volunteer - M - Volunteered over 72 hours each year, and assisted in raising over \$20,000 for babies stricken with Group B Strep disease.
2016 -Pillows for Patients - M, P- Our One-Day 4-H project created 72 pillows for dialysis patients.
If you prefer to upload a table, type "See Attached" in the text field.
4,000 characters left of 4,000
4-H Citizenship & Community Service - Upload
Must be 8 point font or larger and fit one page. Recommendation: Use 10 point font.
Upload a file [1 MiB allowed]

Outside 4-H Experience

- Outside of 4-H Leadership Activities, Honors, Work Experience, Volunteering/Community Service.
- Describe how the 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*
OUTSIDE OF 4-H LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES, HONORS, WORK EXPERIENCE, AND VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY SERVICE: Describe how you spent time outside of your 4-H activities, why you devoted time to a particular activity, the impact the activity had on your personal development, and how it benefited other people. List leadership roles outside of 4-H (include school, church, other youth groups, etc).
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.
If you prefer to upload a table, type "See Attached" in the text field.
3,500 characters left of 3,500
Outside 4-H Experience - Upload
Must be 8 point font or larger and fit one page. Recommendation: Use 10 point font.
Upload a file [1 MiB allowed]

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.
- <u>DO NOT</u> use your name in the narrative.

Personal Narrative*

Write a personal narrative about yourself, highlighting any important facts and information you believe the selection committee should know when considering your application. This would include such things as your history in 4-H, any personal obstacles you have overcome, the greatest thing you will take from 4-H, and how 4-H will help you in the future. Do not repeat any information already contained in the application and DO NOT use your name in the narrative.

3.500 characters left of 3.500

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 viceversa.

Career Narrative*

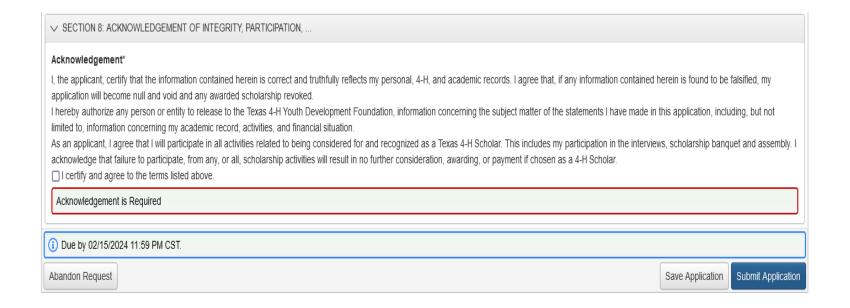
Describe how you have prepared yourself to have an awareness of and an understanding about career(s) applicable to the degree you wish to pursue. Type of information you may provide include:

- Visits to college/universities and conversations with personnel at those institutions.
- Investigations of job/career opportunities and availability
- Persons/experiences that have influenced you to pursue the degree/certification you have indicated.
- . How you decided to pursue a technical certification versus baccalaureate or vice-versa

Section 8 Acknowledgement of Integrity

• 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.



Application Review and Assistance

County Extension Agent Reviews

- You are REQUIRED to send an email to your agent BEFORE you start your application!
- You are **REQUIRED** to have your agent sign the CEA Verification Form.
- Your agent has the right to request to see your application before they will sign the verification form
- Make a plan EARLY with your agent to have them review your application and sign the form.
- Do NOT wait until last minute to loop your agent in.
- Applicants have the ability to collaborate with agents within the application portal using the collaborate tool. Instructions can be found on the Foundation website.

Helpful Tips

- Start Early ensure the applicant has submitted the FAFSA application.
- 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!

Helpful Tips

- This is a **COMPETITIVE ACADEMIC** scholarship process.
- An application is competing against the pool of applicants 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 & Rodeo Austin are the only livestock show donors that requires participation in their show.
- Make sure high school academic proficiency has been met and college entrance exams have been taken early and often.

Helpful Tips

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

Resources

You can find the 2026 Scholarship Guidelines, Scholar Handbook, a Scholarship Timeline, Tip Sheet, link to the scholarship portal and more on the Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship Resources page!

<u>Updates & Resources - Texas 4-H</u> <u>Foundation (texas4hfoundation.org)</u>

The number one thing to remember:

START EARLY, EDIT OFTEN!