2017
TEXAS 4-H OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP TRAINING

Preparing for College!

• Aggressively start the collegiate exploration process as a High School Freshman!
• Balance Career goals with Degree Program Opportunities!
• Make visits annually to colleges to continually learn the admission process (admission, financial aid, etc.)
College Websites

- www.schoolsoup.com
- www.collegeboard.org
- www.cdr.state.tx.us
- www.actstudent.org

College Websites

- www.everychanceeverytexan.org/about/scholars
- www.collegefortexans.com
- www.fafsa.gov
- www.applytexas.org
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 high school counselor’s office and university financial aid office!

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 $20,000.00 presented by the San Antonio Livestock Exposition.

• In 2017 the Scholarship program will celebrate 58 years of providing college scholarships to Texas 4-H members.

• Scholarship program is the largest 4-H scholarship program in the United States.
Introduction

• The scholarship program is overseen by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation.
• An estimated $2.2 million will be given at the Texas 4-H Roundup Scholarship Assembly.
• Approximately 200 scholarships will be awarded in 2017.
• 4-H Scholarships are **ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS** awarded based on academic record, 4-H experience, and financial need (certain one’s).

2017 Program Changes

• Scores from the Old (Jan 2016 or Before) and the New (Mar 2016 or After) of the SAT test will be accepted, as well as ACT scores.
• Any youth receiving a Terry Scholarship are NOT eligible to receive a Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship.
• Scholarship Interviews will be conducted in College Station in May, 2017.
• Dr. Darlene Locke will serve as the Scholarship Coordinator for 2017.
Scholarships Available

- **Baccalaureate**
  - students pursuing a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts.

- **Technical**
  - students pursuing a technical certification.

- **Collegiate**
  - former 4-H members who are college students.
  - completed 30 hours at a grade point average of at least 2.7.

- **Courageous Heart**
  - for baccalaureate or technical students.
  - 4-H members that have overcome obstacles related to medical, family, and/or education.

General Eligibility Requirements

- ACTIVE 4-H member for current and at least the two of three previous years.
- Be a United States citizen.
- Be a Texas resident.
- Scheduled to graduate from a Texas High School (public, private, home) during 2016-2017 year.
- Been accepted into a Texas College/University, 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 2017 scholarship application
  – All pages included.
  – Is typewritten.
  – No supplemental pages (i.e. letters of recommendations).
  – Transcript, FAFSA, College Pages included.
• Application must be complete and correct
• Once submitted, no updates allowed

Target Goals

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Baccalaureate Eligibility

• Score at least:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>Old SAT (Jan 2016 or Before)</th>
<th>New SAT (Mar 2016 or After)</th>
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<td>Minimum</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1350</td>
<td>1000</td>
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</table>

– Scores must be from the same test date.
– No updated test scores or academic scores/rankings will be accepted after the application date.

• Be in the upper one-half (1/2) of his/her class, based on scholastic rank, for the first three and one-half (3.5) years.
  – Some scholarships require applicants to be in the upper one-quarter (1/4) of his/her class.

Technical Eligibility

• 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

- Complete additional pages in scholarship application.
- Application does not have the minimum SAT/ACT or GPA requirements.
- Courageous Heart applicants cannot be considered for other Texas 4-H Opportunity scholarships.
- Have WRITTEN documentation of obstacles.
- Scholarship value is $5,000.

Collegiate Scholarship Eligibility

- United State citizen.
- Texas resident.
- Been an active 4-H member in Texas.
- Attending a Texas College/University.
- Been graduate for at least one year prior to award.
- Completed thirty (30) hours of undergraduate work.
- 2.7 cumulative GPA at time of application.
2017 Application

• 2017 application is available in:
  — Microsoft Word

• Format Samples are available:
  — Adobe PDF format
  — Includes
    • Sample structures and formatting for 4-H record portion of application.

• Applications and instructions available from the County Extension Office or the Texas 4-H and Youth Development website at:
  http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/

2017 Application

• 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 standardize test(s) to graduate and enroll in a Texas College/University, or proof of the standardized test exemption.
Items Needed to Complete Application

- 4-H record book(s) or participation information to help complete the scholarship application. *(optional)*
- 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 desired major.

Scholarship Process
### Scoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scoring Category</th>
<th>Baccalaureate</th>
<th>Technical</th>
<th>Courageous Heart</th>
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<tr>
<td>4-H Experience &amp; Narratives</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Leadership</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Citizenship &amp; Community Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Honors</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Outside 4-H Experience/Leadership</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Personal Narrative</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Career Narrative</td>
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<td>Grade Point Average</td>
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<td>• Financial Need Narrative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Courageous Heart Narrative</td>
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<td>Courageous Heart Letters of Recommendation</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interview</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAXIMUM AWARD POINTS</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Must be fully complete to receive consideration.

Application

- Must be fully complete to receive consideration.
- Application must be:
  - Computer generated and prepared.
  - Typed using a word processor.
  - 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.
Application Order

- Section 1: Personal Information
- Section 2: College/University Information
- Section 3: Livestock Show Participation
- Section 4: SALE – School Tours Information
- Section 5: Individual Scholastic Record
- Section 6: Financial Information
- Section 7: Project Experience
- Section 8: Leadership Experience
- Section 9: Citizenship/Community Service Experience & Honors
- Section 10: Outside 4-H Experience
- Section 11: Personal Narrative
- Section 12: Career Narrative
- Section 13: Courageous Heart Narrative
- Section 14: Acknowledgement of Integrity, Participation, and Certification
- Section 15: County Extension Agent Certification
- Required Attachments (ACT/SAT scores, Transcript, and FAFSA Student Activity Report, College Pages)

Application Sections

SECTION 1: Personal Information

- Identify the submission of the application (Baccalaureate, Technical, or Courageous Heart).
- All information must be completed.
Application Sections

SECTION 2: College/University Information

- 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 the applicant plans on pursuing.
SECTION 3: Livestock Show Participation

Some shows require that an applicant has been an exhibitor at their show to be eligible for consideration.

Make sure and indicate the actual year the applicant participated at the show – NOT THE NUMBER OF YEARS PARTICIPATED.

SECTION 4: San Antonio Livestock Show-School Tours

Indicate if you are planning on serving as a school tours guide for the 2017 San Antonio Livestock Show

SALE School Tour scholarships are only available to those youth that have served their graduating year and meet the college/university majors for San Antonio Livestock Exposition.
SECTION 5: 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.
- **GPA MUST BE ON A 100 POINT UN-WEIGHTED SCALE!** Extra points given for honors and AP classes should be excluded. OTHER SCALES WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.
- Failure to provide class and quartile ranking can result in disqualification.

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SECTION 3: LIVESTOCK SHOW PARTICIPATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIVESTOCK SHOW</th>
<th>Participated</th>
<th>YES, LIST THE YEARS YOU PARTICIPATED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Antonio Livestock Exposition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rodeo Austin</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Fair of Texas</td>
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</table>

SECTION 4: SAN ANTONIO LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION – SCHOOL TOUR GUIDE

Are you planning to volunteer as a San Antonio Livestock Exposition School Tour Guide in 2017? [ ]
### SECTION 6: Financial Information

#### Application Sections

#### THE 2017-18 FAFSA IS AVAILABLE NOW!
SECTION 6: Financial Information

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

SECTION 6: Financial Information

Student Aid Report (SAR)

- Indicate if applying for other scholarships, loans, and/or other financial aid. (HINT: judges and donors like to see applicants that are searching out and applying for other financial support).
- If applicant has applied for other financial support, it must be listed.
- Provide the name of the financial support.
- Type (i.e. scholarship, grant, award, etc).
- Amount per year. (NOTE: DO NOT list “depends”, “varies”, etc on amount – provide an estimate of what past scholarships have been)
- Total the two types of funding (confirmed and pending)
Application Sections

SECTION 6: Financial Information

- Is the scholarship renewable. If it is dependable upon grades, then we expect the applicant to maintain those grades.
- 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 (AWARDED – the applicant has received verification of receiving it or pending – applicant has 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.
Application Sections

SECTION 6: Financial Information

- When writing the narrative, let the judges know why you need financial aid. (HINT: DO NOT start the narrative with the words of “I deserve this ......”).
- 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.collegefortexans.com.
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 $90,000 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.

Application Sections

SECTIONS 7 to 10: Experience Pages

- Information for completing Sections 7 to 10 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 and layout are provided in document entitled “Scholarship Application Process.”
SECTION 7: 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 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.
SECTION 8: Leadership 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.
SECTION 9: 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.
Application Sections

SECTION 9: 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).
Application Sections

SECTION 10: 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).
Application Sections

SECTION 11: 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.
Application Sections

SECTION 12: 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 associates degree/technical certification versus baccalaureate or vice-versa.
Application Sections

SECTION 13: Courageous Heart Applicant Information

• Pages 11 & 12 of the 2017 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.
SECTION 14: Acknowledgement of Integrity, Participation, and Certification

- Certification must be signed and dated by the applicant and a parent/guardian of the applicant.
- Each statement must be initialed in ink by both the applicant and parent/guardian.
- Applicant and parent/guardian will acknowledge review of FAFSA, Transcript, Test Scores, and College Catalog pages being corrected and/or included.

**HINT:** It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure their transcript and/or test scores are correct. This may mean the applicant opens the transcript, reviews it, and then reseal in a new envelope before submitting to the county office.
SECTION 15: County Extension Agent Certification

- Agent will review application for correctness, quality and completion.
- They will certify membership and 4-H Club/County Enrollment.
- Application must be signed by a County Extension Agent.

**HINT:** If the county does not currently have a County Extension Agent please leave signature line blank and District Office will complete. All other information can be completed by county office.
SECTION 16: Application Checklist and Certification

• Everyone who is involved in the scholarship process from 4-H member to state office will utilize this page and using a pen will initial each item acknowledging that application is:
  – COMPLETE,
  – MEETS THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS,
  – CONTAINS ALL MATERIALS, AND
  – HAS BEEN REVIEWED.

• Do not type this page! It must be ink initials.
Tips for Preparing the Application

- Start Early – ensure applicant has taken the ACT/SAT test and 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 **COMPETITIVE 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.  
- Print on normal copier/typing paper – NO bond, color, or perfumed paper!

The number one thing to remember:  

START EARLY, EDIT OFTEN, SAVE OFTEN!
Ask Yourself

- Do I meet the basic criteria/requirements?
- 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?
- Have transcripts/test scores been requested?
- Are narratives well written and edited?
- Has a submission category been identified?
- Has the application received all signatures?

Questions

For questions about the Texas 4-H Scholarship Program Contact your County Extension Agent or your District 4-H Specialist: