

Victoria County 4-H

Family Handbook



2011 - 2012

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Dear Families,

Welcome to the Victoria County 4-H program. 4-H is the youth development program of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Our purpose is that boys and girls receive the opportunity to learn, develop life skills, and form attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society.

The 4-H program has opportunities to offer both rural and urban youth. 4-H education, recreation, recognition, field trips, club as well as community activities help equalize opportunities and personal development of all young people.

4-H IS A FAMILY AFFAIR. A boy or girl selects various 4-H projects with the help of their parents. The parents then advise, counsel, and assist their child with the project.

No matter if you are a new 4-H Member or an “old pro” this handbook is an essential element to your 4-H Success. A dedicated committee has set aside many nights and weekends to improve this book to be the most up-to-date and handy guide to 4-H in Victoria County. The book is divided into four sections:

- What is 4-H
- Who’s Who in Victoria County 4-H
- Responsibilities of Each 4-H Member
 - 4-H Opportunities

If you have any other questions, feel free to call the Extension Office, your club manager or project leader.

We look forward to your participation in the Victoria County 4-H Program.

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Victoria, Texas 77904
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Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1- 5 p.m.

What Is 4-H?

4-H Information

General 4-H Rules and Policies

Frequently Asked Questions about 4-H



WHAT IS 4-H



4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. The 4-H & Youth Development Program is a non-profit organization which teaches these life skills through project learning experiences led by parents, volunteers and other adult leaders.

THE MISSION OF 4-H

To prepare youth to meet the challenges of childhood, adolescence and adulthood through a coordinated, long-term, progressive series of educational experiences that enhance life skills and develop social, emotional, physical and cognitive competencies.

OBJECTIVES OF 4-H

- acquire knowledge in agriculture, natural resources, family consumer science, science and technology
- acquire positive self-concepts
- respect and get along with people
- learn and practice leadership skills and fulfill leadership roles
- develop good health practices
- explore career and job opportunities
- plan productive use of leisure time
- plan for personal goals

4-H EMBLEM

The 4-H Club emblem is a four-leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaf. The four H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. Leaves of the clover are green and the H's are white. The white is for purity, and the green is nature's most common color, and is symbolic of youth, life and growth. The four H's represent the four-square development of:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| HEAD | To help you learn new and better ways of doing things. |
| HEART | To help you develop ideas and standards for living in society. |
| HANDS | To give you the opportunity to develop useful skills & to apply them. |
| HEALTH | To help you develop habits of good health. |

THE 4-H MOTTO

"To Make the Best Better"

4-H PLEDGE

"I pledge...

MY HEAD to clearer thinking,

MY HEART to greater loyalty,

MY HANDS to larger service,

MY HEALTH to better living,

for my club, my community, my country, and my world."

SLOGAN

"Learn by Doing"

4-H PRAYER

Help me, O Lord, to live so that the
world may be a little better because
Thou didst make me. Amen.

4-H MEMBERSHIP

1. Any youth may become a member of 4-H when he/she is 8 years old and in the 3rd grade *or* 9 years of age as of August 31st of the 4-H year. A youth's last year in 4-H shall be the 4-H year in which the 19th birthday occurs.

JUNIOR 4-H MEMBER - 4-Hers age 8 and in the 3rd grade through 10 years as of August 31 of the current 4-H year.

INTERMEDIATE 4-H MEMBER - 4-Hers between the ages of 11, 12 and 13 as of August 31 of the current 4-H year.

SENIOR 4-H MEMBER - 4-Hers age 14-18 as of August 31 of the current 4-H year.
2. Youth may enroll in one or more 4-H projects or any curriculum enrichment.
3. 4-Hers participate in planned 4-H project learning experiences under the guidance of a 4-H certified project leader or trained teacher.
4. A project is considered complete when a member has participated in six learning experiences, and turned in a completed 4-H project summary form to their project leader or Club Manager, or an awards record book to the County Extension Office by the date determined by the County Extension Office.
5. The current year shall start September 1. Enrollment will remain open throughout the year.
6. 4-H clubs are asked to make a \$2.00 per member donation to the county 4-H budget in support of the county wide program. This goes to help defray the cost of insurance coverage for each 4-H member for the entire 4-H year.



GENERAL 4-H RULES & POLICIES



REGISTRATION & ENTRY FEES

1. Participants in all District and State Contest will be required to register online through 4-H Connect.
2. District registration fees for the contestant will be covered by 4-H check through the Adult Leaders. If there are additional fees included in the registration (parent registration, extra meals, etc) these will need to be paid to Victoria County 4-H.
3. State Roundup Registration will be completed through the 4-H Connect Online System. The finance committee will determine the amount the Adult Leaders will contribute after contestants are announced, not to exceed 50% of total cost. (Example: Youth pay registration, Adult Leaders pay for room & partial meals)

NO PASS / NO PLAY

1. 4-H is recognized by the Texas Education Agency and each local school district as an extracurricular activity.
2. All 4-H members participating in any 4-H competitive event must be passing all classes in order to compete, regardless whether or not the competitive event is during school time.
3. Prior to each competitive event, each school will be notified and **the school will declare 4-H members who are not academically eligible as of the most recent grading reporting period according to the TEA / UIL Handbook. If 4-H members are not passing, they will be notified by the Extension Agent. Contact the Extension Office with any questions.**

SCHOOL ABSENCES

1. 4-H members participating in an activity which is approved by the local school board, under the direction of the Extension agent(s) will be considered excused.
2. Students are responsible and **MUST** stay within the limits of the number of days allowed by their school. Schools will be notified (by letter) from the Extension Office as to what members will be participating, dates and times that they are to miss classes.

DISTRICT JUDGING TEAMS

1. Each judging team wishing to compete at the District Contest must attend one invitational contest prior to the District and or County Contest if needed.
2. Judging teams are highly encouraged to have scheduled practices prior to this invitational contest and before County and or District.

COUNTY TRAVEL

1. We will transport youth and adults in a county vehicle according to the number of shoulder belts available due to the seriousness of potential injuries if involved in a motor vehicle crash. We will not transport anyone in a lap only belt seating position.
2. Do not rely on the Extension Office to provide transportation to all functions. If you will need the county to provide transportation please check with the Extension Office **prior** to registering for an event.



Frequently Asked Questions



Question: I don't want to raise an animal but I want to be in 4-H. Is that okay?

Answer: Yes, you can be in 4-H and complete and compete in many different projects that do not include livestock.

Question: How do I figure out what is going on in the county?

Answer: Read the 4-H Newsletter that is mailed out monthly, check the Victoria County 4-H Website, read the 4-H Roundup article that is published in the Victoria Advocate every other Sunday, or contact your Club Manager or the Extension Office.

Question: How can I contact the Extension Office?

Answer: The Extension Office is open Monday – Friday from 8:00am – Noon and from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm. You may come by, call, or e-mail any agent or secretary. You may also call after hours and leave a message on someone's voice mail.

Question: I am not passing my classes in school. Can I still show my animals?

Answer: No. 4-H members must be eligible by TEA/UIL guidelines in order to show their animal.

Who's Who in Victoria County 4-H

Extension Staff

4-H Clubs in Victoria County

Club Leadership Team

Victoria County 4-H Council

Victoria County 4-H Adult Leaders Association

Victoria County 4-H Ambassadors

 **Extension Staff** 

Texas AgriLife Extension Service is active and involved within Victoria County. We are fortunate to have an outstanding staff that is able to assist you in many needs. All agents and staff participate in 4-H events and our number one goal is to help you achieve success and learning through your 4-H project. Please feel free to contact any one of us with your questions.

Sam Womble, CEA-Natural Resources

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Sarah Womble, CEA-Family & Consumer Sciences

sawomble@ag.tamu.edu

Joe Janak, CEA-Agriculture

j-janak@tamu.edu

DeAnne Sullivan, 4-H Secretary/Office Manager

ddsullivan@ag.tamu.edu

Tricia Simank, FCS Secretary

prsimank@ag.tamu.edu



4-H Clubs in Victoria County



4-H members join together in an organization called a 4-H club. It elects its own officers & conducts its own business. Clubs have a monthly business meeting, with an annual plan for their programs. During the meeting, the group discusses business & plans for activities. In addition, each meeting usually includes some kind of special educational program. This can be method demonstrations or illustrated talks by members, parents or resource persons or it may be a topic which interests the entire group. Below is a list of current 4-H clubs in Victoria County, the Club Manager's name & phone number, and the date, time & location of that club's monthly meeting.

2011-2012

VICTORIA COUNTY 4-H CLUBS

Aloe 4-H Club

*2nd Sunday at Trinity Lutheran Church
Club Manager: Shelly Marbach, 578-4093*

Bloomington 4-H Club

*1st Monday, Dacosta Volunteer Fire Dept.
Club Manager: Dewayne Janis, 897-2097*

Guadalupe 4-H Club

*1st Monday, at Victoria Electric Co-Op
Club Manager: Traci Shadle, 218-6101*

High Bidders 4-H Club

*1st Sunday, at Martin Luther Lutheran Church
Club Manager: Darlene Willemin, 572-0933*

Inez 4-H Club

*2nd Sunday, at Inez Baptist Church
Club Manager: Danielle Warzecha*

Kelly Creek 4-H Club

*4th Sunday, at 4-H Activity Center
Club Manager: Mike Wuensche, 574-9600*

Mission Valley 4-H Club

*1st Thursday,
at Lutheran Church—Mission Valley
Club Manager: Bridget Jacob, 574-7812*

Nursery 4-H Club

*1st Tuesday, at Methodist Church Nursery
Club Manager: Nadine Van Beveren, 550-9931*

Southern Country 4-H Club

*2nd Sunday, 6:00pm
Club Manager: Charlotte Bethke, 573-1218*

Westwood 4-H Club

*3rd Sunday, Lutheran Church-Mission Valley
Club Manager: Jackie Parsons, 579-9296*

Wood-Hi 4-H Club

*2nd Sunday, at Wood-Hi Community Center
Club Manager: Gayle Parenica, 578-0208*

Rough Riders 4-H Club

*Horse Project
1st Tuesday, 7:00pm
Club Manager: Janet Jones, 550-9767*

Shotgun 4-H Club

Club Manager: Tammy Barringer, 575-6611



CLUB LEADERSHIP TEAM



Club Manager

- **Manages executive committee meeting, monthly club meetings & club organization**
- **Promotes cooperation, coordination & communication among members & leaders**
- **Trains & supervises officers & committees**
- **Informs parents & involves them in 4-H**
- **Plans & publishes yearly club program**
- **Helps recruit leaders & members**
- **Publicizes 4-H in the community**
- **Keeps records & supplies**

Parents

- **Help secure finances & facilities for projects**
- **Help member select & conduct project**
- **Responsible for members arriving to & attending meetings & activities**
- **Help member keep records of projects**
- **Help with some aspect of 4-H program**
- **Maintain good communication with Club Manager; stay involved & well informed with what club is doing at all times**

Project Leaders

- **Organizes & conducts project group meetings & activities**
- **Helps members select & manage projects**
- **Assists members with record keeping**
- **Involves older 4-H members as junior & teen leaders**
- **Recognizes members**
- **Encourages parental interest & support**
- **Coordinates with other leaders**
- **Responsible for notifying project members of meetings, either by phone, monthly newsletter or Roundup news article.**

Activity Leaders

- Organizes & teaches in areas not considered projects:
 - Livestock Judging
 - Share-the-Fun
 - Method Demonstrations
 - Record Book
- Helps 4-H members organize & conduct special activities:
 - Special community service projects
 - National 4-H Week activities
 - Field trips

Junior & Teen Leaders

- Help plan 4-H Activities
- Teach younger or new members
- Recruit members & leaders
- Call members & encourage participation
- Lead by Example

Ambassadors

- Serve as a resource to a club
- Teach a project to younger members
- Conducts 4-H promotional activities
- Serves as a role model for youth
- Conducts community service projects



4-H COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICERS



- PRESIDENT Breana Tater
- VICE-PRESIDENT Cheyenne Borchert
- SECRETARY Allan Parsons
- TREASURER Lauren Heller
- DISTRICT DELEGATE Seth Garrett
- DISTRICT DELEGATE Allan Parsons
- REPORTER..... John Atzenhoffer
- PARLIAMENTARIAN Shelbie Van Beveren
- HISTORIAN Kelley Wood
- RECREATION OFFICER Laci Alexander

The Victoria County 4-H County Council is the governing body and voice of Victoria County 4-H Members. This council is responsible for assisting with the planning of county events and the organization of county wide projects activities and community service. The County Council meets four times a year at the same time as the Adult Leaders Organization.

County Council Meeting Dates

All meetings will be held at the 4-H Activity Center, at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Please watch the 4-H Newsletter for updated information.

September 20, 2011

November 15, 2011

January 17, 2012

March 20, 2012

May 15, 2012



Adult Leader's Association Officers



- PRESIDENT** **Mike Wuensche**
- VICE-PRESIDENT** **Jeanine Atzenhoffer**
- SECRETARY** **Shelly Marbach**
- TREASURER** **Jennifer Diebel**

The Victoria County 4-H Adult Leaders' Association is open to any 4-H parent of leader who wishes to be involved in the decisions made concerning 4-H. The more involvement we get in this organization the better we can help our youth.

Adult Leaders' Meeting Dates

All meetings will be held at the 4-H Activity Center, at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Please watch the 4-H Newsletter for updated information.

September 20, 2011

November 15, 2011

January 17, 2012

March 20, 2012

May 15, 2012



4-H AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



Ambassadors are senior 4-H members who serve in leadership roles to promote and advertise 4-H to other youth, community leaders and volunteers. The 4-H Ambassadors meet the 3rd Thursday of every month.

Selection Process

Membership is restricted to sophomores, juniors and seniors in high school who have had at least 3 years of 4-H experience. A membership application with essay must be submitted and the 4-H Ambassador Program Guidelines form must be signed by the 4-H member and a parent or guardian. Ambassadors will be selected through an interview process on the basis of their past 4-H experiences by a panel of judges selected by the Extension staff.

Goals of the Ambassador Program

1. Provide in-depth leadership, communication, public relations and personal development training to older 4-H youth.
2. Increase public awareness and understanding of the 4-H program.
3. Expand the leadership base and increase community service activities.
4. Provide youth a forum for expressing and discussing items of concern to them.
5. Provide guidance and direction to 4-H Ambassadors in reaching their personal goals.

AMBASSADORS

Lauren Heller

Madalynn Kainer

Travis Johnston

Kyle Barringer

Breana Tater

Melody Riley

Charlie Holloway

4-H Expectations

Member Expectations & Responsibilities

Parent Expectations & Responsibilities

Club Expectations & Responsibilities



4-H Member Expectations



4-H is an organization that develops the youth of today into the leaders of tomorrow. For members to gain the full experience, we expect that each member maintains proper behavior as stated in the Code of Conduct which was attached to the membership form. Also, if circumstances arise that require disciplinary action, the Texas 4-H Rules and the Texas 4-H Youth and Development Consequences of Misbehavior will be followed.

4-H Members Should:

1. Complete one project (to contain at least six learning experiences)
2. 4-H members are required to keep records in the form of a 4-H Recordbook or Project Summary Form in order to gain credit for the completion of the project.
3. 4-Hers are strongly encouraged to participate in project meetings. These meetings are held to increase your knowledge and technical skills in a particular project.

4-H Member Responsibilities

Being a 4-H Member does not come without any responsibilities. Each member is expected to:

1. Attend their club meetings
2. Read the 4-H Newsletter
3. Participate in Community Service Activities



4-H Parent Expectations



Good youth development programs do not just happen. It takes the combined effort of parents and volunteers along with the guidance of Extension youth development professionals to establish a good 4-H program.

In 4-H we have a team, a 4-H team which contributes to the ultimate development of boys and girls. On this team are the parents who become partners of the team. If this team is to be successful, then the parents must become "regular players" not "bench warmers."

According to Texas 4-H & Youth Development Guidelines, each parent or adult volunteer will be required to have a background check every three years. Victoria County 4-H has asked that each parent pay \$10 when needed to process this background check through the Extension appointed agency in Dallas, Texas. This background check is essential to the safety of your children and to assist in keeping adult volunteers free from potential lawsuits.

Why is parent participation important?

Through research and experience, a number of positive effects on 4-H, 4-H clubs and 4-H members can be attributed to active parent participation.

1. Active parent participation can strengthen and broaden the 4-H program in a local unit or in any county.
2. 4-H work would be totally impossible without the active support of interested parents.
3. It has been found that boys and girls do better club work when parents show interest.
4. Extending a helping or encouraging hand to a boy or girl is one of the finest ways you can express affection to your children and other youth.
5. 4-H is a family affair offering parents many opportunities to participate in a program with their child and build family unity.
6. When parental support is positive, the chances are good for the club to become stronger, larger and more active.
7. In clubs where parental support is good, individual club members receive more personal attention and guidance from leaders and parents.
8. Club activities and events will develop and expand with the added support of parents.
9. 4-H has a positive influence on the lives of thousands of boys and girls. This happens only when parents care enough to share their time, efforts and talents.

4-H Parent Responsibilities

Being a 4-H Parent does not come without any responsibilities. Parents and leaders are expected to:

1. Learn what 4-H is all about (purposes, objective, etc.)
2. Exhibit a genuine interest and enthusiasm in 4-H and in your child.
3. Encourage participation in 4-H activities. Participation stimulates interest and enthusiasm.
4. Assist your child in selecting a project they will enjoy, a project they have the ability to accomplish, and one for which you can help furnish facilities, financing, needed materials and guidance.
5. Provide encouragement. Help in project work with recordkeeping, demonstrations, judging, and completion of attempted work and leadership responsibilities.
6. Provide transportation for members to local club meetings, county events and various activities.
7. Attend at least half of the club meetings each year with your child.
8. Get informed about "what's going on" and continue to keep informed.
9. Provide a meeting place for a project group. When possible, assist leaders and club by providing refreshments or other help.
10. Volunteer to be a project leader. All adults have abilities that would greatly assist the 4-H program.
11. Serve on a committee to help plan and conduct special club activities and events.



4-H CLUB EXPECTATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES



1. Pay dues.
2. Fulfill club assignments by participating in county-wide events
 - 4-H Adult Leaders Organization & County Council Meetings
 - Harvest of Fun (annual 4-H fall fund raiser)
 - National 4-H Week (1st week in October)
 - South Texas Farm & Ranch Show Concession Stand (annual fund raising opportunity at the end of October)
 - Spring Raffle Tickets



4-H ACTIVITY CENTER



The 4-H Activity Center is located on 259 Bachelor Dr. at the Victoria Regional Airport (3 blocks past the Extension Office). The purpose of the facility is to provide a place for 4-H programs. (i.e. 4-H shooting sports, 4-H club meetings, 4-H project meetings & trainings) as well as other Extension meetings. This facility enables volunteer leaders to train youth and to provide them an opportunity for continual year-round training. The 4-H Activity Center can also be used for other District & State 4-H meetings & events. Booking of the facility for club or project use is handled through the 4-H Secretary at 575-4581. The facility is overseen by the Victoria County Extension Agents.

After a reservation is made, the 4-H Activity Center key may be checked out from the 4-H Secretary and must be returned at the conclusion of the event or the next business day. After each event the building must be dust mopped or cleaned to remove all dirt, stains, and spills; chairs and tables must be put back (except for 3 tables); air conditioner/heater must be set as prescribed; trash collected from all rooms and taken to the dumpster. Refer to the green sheet on the wall of the building for full instructions. No tape can be used on the walls or tables.

4-H Opportunities

Projects & Potential Projects

Contests

Training Opportunities

Awards & Recognition Possibilities



THE 4-H PROJECT



WHAT IS A PROJECT?

The project is the heart of the 4-H program. A wide variety of projects are available for members. In addition to the traditional animal projects, a few of the other projects available include Foods & Nutrition, Clothing, Citizenship, Consumer Education, Public Speaking, Gardening and Horticulture, Dog Care, Shooting Sports, Wildlife, Plant ID, and Sport Fishing. Project opportunities vary depending upon the county and club. A member or group can also select an area of interest that is not officially listed as a 4-H project, and plan and conduct a project in that area. For a complete listing of current projects and objectives refer to the Annual Texas 4-H Enrollment List, 4-H Clover Handbook, or contact your Club Manager.

Through well chosen projects, members learn to use their resources, to assume responsibility and to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for everyday living. A project may extend over a short period of time or for several years. "Learning-by-doing" is the most important aspect of a project, not time. Making, growing, caring for, observing and participating—all of these active learning processes are involved in 4-H projects. From a member's viewpoint, projects may be fun, help develop skills, offer an opportunity to assume responsibility or explore interests and careers. Projects also offer a chance to do things with friends. Leaders and parents may see the project as a means to create more interest in daily tasks, strengthen family and community ties, develop knowledge and skills of members, explore possible career opportunities & enhance a positive self-image.

THE PROJECT GROUP

Members would have the opportunity to participate in group learning and peer teaching since sharing skills and experiences often provides them with greater learning opportunities. Group participation can also motivate members to follow through with commitments. Members are usually involved in group learning through their participation in a project group. Project group meetings allow members to acquire knowledge and skills in a specific project. Most clubs will have several project groups to offer. If there are five or less members enrolled in a project, the club may decide not to offer that project. Parents will be expected at this time to help the 4-H member select another project. In some cases projects are available on a countywide level (i.e. shooting sports, photography, foods & nutrition, etc.).

PROJECT LEADERS

These adults and teens provide structured learning experiences, personal guidance and counseling for members enrolled in their projects. Project leaders for county wide events are responsible for announcing meeting dates, times and places in the monthly county 4-H newsletter and/or Roundup article.

HOW ARE PROJECTS CONDUCTED?

1. Project group meetings (4-Her should have at least 6 learning experiences)
2. Regular club meetings (project talks, demonstrations, etc.)
3. Tours or field trips to visit projects of members, local businesses, or various agencies
4. Family activity at home
5. Exhibiting project work at home
6. Individual work toward project goals
7. Recordkeeping of project activities

COMPLETING YOUR PROJECT

Each 4-H member is encouraged to keep a record of his or her 4-H work. Records are not an extra task, but are a part of 4-H work. To successfully complete a project and receive recognition, a 4-H member must complete & submit EITHER a Project Record Summary form to their Club Manager OR a Record Book to the Extension Office. Those that submit a Project Summary Form will receive a certificate while those that submit a Recordbook will receive a project pin for their main project and certificates for their secondary projects. In order to apply for and receive a county 4-H award (i.e. Bronze, Silver, Gold Star, I Dare You, etc.) a 4-H record book and award application must be completed and submitted to the Extension Office by the designated deadlines.

PROJECT SUMMARY FORM

This form is available at the Extension Office and is to be completed by a 4-H member after he or she has finished his or her 4-H project. In order to receive a completion certificate at the close of the 4-H year, a form must be submitted for the 4-Her's main project completed.

RECORDBOOKS

Record books are written evidence of 4-Her's project growth and accomplishments. Completing a recordbook allows 4-Hers to receive a project pin as well as apply for numerous county awards. Record Books are also judged at the county, district & state level. Senior record books placing 1st or 2nd at District judging advance to state. Forms may be downloaded from the Victoria County 4-H website or you can pick up the form at the Extension Office. Deadline dates are published in the 4-H Newsletter and/or Roundup news article. Resources are available online as well as several workshops that are hosted at the Extension Office in the Spring.



4-H Contests



Judging Contests

Victoria County has the ability to compete in multiple judging contests. Judging teams are expected to study, practice and attend competitions prior to competing at District. In cases where there are more than 4 interested 4-H members per age division, there will be a county contest or system designed by the judging team coach and agents to determine the top 4 individuals for competition. Judging teams compete at District and then the top 3 senior teams have the opportunity to advance to State Roundup held in June. Following are the possible teams:

- Livestock Judging
- Consumer Decision Making
- Horse Judging
- Meat Judging
- Range & Pasture ID
- Soil Judging
- Dairy Cattle Judging
- Entomology Contest
- Mohair Judging
- Wool Judging

Fashion Show

This competition is an opportunity for 4-H members to exhibit the skills they have learned in modeling and presentation of garments. Members may choose construction, or comparison shopping. The contest is broken into the categories: casual, dressy, formal, and specialty. 4-H members can also compete in a fabric and fashion design contest as well as narrator and stage design for the fashion show.

Food Show

4-H members prepare a dish and are interviewed by a panel of judges on its nutritional content. The four categories in which they can compete are: Main Dish, Fruits and Vegetables, Breads and Cereals, and Nutritious Snacks.

Photography

4-H members submit photos to compete in several categories. Judges assess overall quality of work and the message the picture is portrays.

Recordbook

A well organized, accurate and concise report or journal of a 4-H member's activities in a particular project which he or she completed during the 4-H year. It includes information from the first year the 4-H'er started in that particular project area to the present.

Roundup

A contest where 4-H members can enter educational presentations, share-the-fun, or public speaking.

- **Educational Presentation**— A presentation on a specific 4-H project area by an individual or team.
- **Public Speaking**— A 5 to 7 minute speech on a current event or youth related topic.
- **Share-the-Fun**— Includes choreographed dance, skits, musical/band, vocal performance, and poetry/prose.
- **Quiz Bowls**— Test the 4-H member's knowledge in a specific subject area. Currently the bowl contests offered are: nutrition, beef and horse.

Shooting Sports

Victoria County 4-H has three very active shooting sports projects. Rifle, Archery and Shotgun are all projects in which youth can participate in area invitational contests. The top youth are then allowed to compete as a team at district and senior 4-H members may advance to the state competition. (There is no district competition for the Shotgun project.)



Leadership Opportunities



Leadership opportunities for 4-H Members and Adult Leaders are available at various times and locations throughout the 4-H Year. Some events will cover a wide range of material and some are project specific. Further details are listed in the 4-H Newsletter and in The Victoria Advocate under 4-H Roundup. Contact the Extension Office if you are interested in attending any of these leadership opportunities.

Remember, the Adult Leaders Organization will pay 50% of registration cost up to \$200 if you are an adult chaperone or if you are a youth and the event is "earned or won". If the amount requested exceeds \$200, approval of the Finance Committee must be obtained. (See page 4 for financial details)

District Crossroads (Youth with Adult Chaperones)

District 11 4-H Adult Leaders host District Crossroads annually the weekend before Thanksgiving. Intense subject matter training is provided within a specific learning track.

National 4-H Congress

National 4-H Congress is held each November in Atlanta, Georgia. 4-H Members from across the state must complete an application and interview process and are named at State 4-H Roundup.

Teen Retreat (Youth)

All senior 4-H youth may participate in Teen Retreat held at the Texas 4-H Center in January. Teen 4-H Members improve their leadership skills while making new friends and having fun.

Leadership Lab (Youth)

District Leadership Lab allows 4-H youth, age 14+, to improve their leadership skills and gain project knowledge which they can bring back to train other 4-H members.

Junior Leadership Lab (Youth)

Junior Leadership Lab is a day camp designed for youth 8-13. This event allows youth to form district wide friendships and gain useful knowledge in a variety of areas.

SpecTra (Youth)

SpecTra is held each summer at the Texas 4-H Center outside of Brownwood and provides youth with 20 hours of intense subject matter training in one of eight project areas.

Prime Time I & II (Youth)

This camp is designed for youth age 9-13 to provide an opportunity to make new friends while developing leadership skills and project knowledge.

Texas 4-H Congress (Youth)

Texas 4-H Congress is held every other July in Austin. This mock legislative session provides 4-H Members with an inside view of Texas politics while developing leadership and public speaking skills.



4-H Awards & Recognition



All nomination forms and application forms can be downloaded from the Victoria County 4-H Website or picked up at the Extension Office.

SCRAPBOOK AWARDS

This award is presented on the county level for 4-H clubs. The deadline to submit scrapbooks is in June (specific date announced in 4-H Newsletter). Winners are announced at Harvest of Fun and presented with monetary awards of \$50 for 1st place, \$25 for 2nd place & \$15 for 3rd Place.

OUTSTANDING ADULT LEADERS MALE & FEMALE

4-H members and volunteers can nominate outstanding adult leaders each year. Selection will be conducted by a panel of judges. Winners will be recognized with an award. Other outstanding leaders will also be recognized.

FRIEND OF 4-H BUSINESS

Business are nominated by 4-H members and volunteers each year. Selection of this award will be made by a panel of judges. The award may not be awarded two years in a row to the same business.

FRIEND OF 4-H INDIVIDUAL

Individuals are nominated by 4-H members and volunteers each year. Selection of this award will be made by a panel of judges. The award may not be awarded two years in a row to the same individual.

YEAR PINS and COMPLETION CERTIFICATES

These are awarded to 4-Hers who have completed one project and prepared and presented one method demonstration to an audience other than a project group. Pins and certificates are presented by the Club Manager at the last club meeting of the 4-H year (usually May).

PROJECT PINS

Pins are awarded each year to all 4-Hers who complete a 4-H Record Book. Pins will only be given for the main project or record book category entered. Certificates will be awarded for the other projects.

COUNTY AWARDS

Awards will be presented in three age categories: Junior, 3rd grade to 10 years old; Intermediate, 11-13 years old; Senior 14-18 years old. Ages are as of August 31, of the current 4-H year.

To become eligible for county awards the 4-H'er must:

1. Turn in a completed record book by the specified date
2. Turn in a completed awards application by the specified date (this is a short summary of 4-H members activities)
3. Be interviewed by a panel of judges. *4-Hers who cannot be present on the day designated for interviews will be permitted to video tape an interview on an alternate day by scheduling special arrangements with the Extension Agent.*

FIRST YEAR BOY AND FIRST YEAR GIRL

These awards are presented by the Victoria Chamber of Commerce to the First Year Boy and First Year Girl members, who accumulate the highest score on their interview and Record Book. Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors are eligible.

BRONZE STAR (Juniors)

This award is based on 4-H involvement, evidence of personal growth, leadership characteristics and abilities, and community service. This award may be received only once. 4-Her must have two or more years in the 4-H program. A review panel selected by the Extension Agent will interview applicants and their submitted record book. Three 4-H members will be selected for this award each year.

SILVER STAR (Intermediates)

This award is based on 4-H involvement, evidence of personal growth, leadership characteristics and abilities, and community service. This award may be received only once. 4-Her must have two or more years in the 4-H program. A review panel selected by the Extension Agent will interview applicants and their submitted record book. Three 4-H members will be selected for this award each year.

GOLD STAR (Seniors)

The Gold Star Award is the highest County Achievement Award. This award may be received only once. Requirements:

1. Must be at least 15 yrs of age as of August 31, of the year he/she is to be considered & must have completed at least 3 yrs in 4-H including the current year.
2. The 4-H member must have completed projects in three different project areas, including submission of appropriate record forms and have participated in one or more activities in at least three of the following areas:
Method Demonstration/4-H Presentation, Contests, Projects, Project Exhibits, Camps, Leadership Labs, Citizenship Activities, Public Relations (demonstrations, speeches, poster displays, radio, TV, newspapers, etc.) Other (includes exchange programs, fundraising, State Congress)
3. During his or her last 3 years in 4-H, the member must have exhibited leadership skills by serving as a 4-H officer or committee chairman (club, county, district or state), and/or as a junior or teen leader in an activity or project with or under the supervision of an adult volunteer leader. The 4-H member must have participated in one or more community service activities and led an activity relating to community service within the last 3 years.

Each Gold Star winner will receive a \$500 savings bond & a framed Gold Star certificate. Other awards may be given by community groups.



OTHER AWARDS



"I DARE YOU" AWARD:

William H. Danforth's book, **I DARE YOU**, was first published in 1931. This book is still considered one of the most influential books in the general area of personal motivation. Every year, **two senior level 4-H members receive this award** --in recognition of excellence in character, well-balanced personal development, as well as demonstrated leadership. Applicants must be a sophomore, junior or senior in high school prior to the beginning of the current 4-H year. A copy of the book and a personalized certificate suitable for framing comprise the tangible parts of this award. In addition, students receiving the award will have the opportunity to apply for a scholarship to attend the summer National Leadership Conference of the American Youth Foundation. The challenge - *the dare to be one's best* - is timeless. This award can be received only once. I DARE YOU winners each receive a \$250 Savings Bond, Certificate & Plaque.

KAREN OBSTA WENDEL AWARD:

This memorial was designed to perpetuate the memory of Karen Obsta-Wendel, a truly outstanding 4-H member and volunteer leader. Karen was recognized by her peers as a genuine person with outstanding character. She was very involved in her community and always willing to lend a helping hand. This annual award is presented to **one senior level 4-H member** who has completed at least 3 years of 4-H work. 4-H members can only receive this award once. Award recipients must be of excellent character. He or she must exhibit outstanding qualities in leadership and community service. Recipient must display attributes of friendliness and an interest in helping their fellow man. The award recipient will be presented a plaque and \$200 and will be recognized at Achievement Night. The award winners name will be engraved on a master plaque on display at the Extension Office. The award is provided by Karen's family and friends. Nomination forms are available at the Extension Office in May and due at a specified date in June each year.

LEO ANDERSON "CARING HEART" AWARD

The "Caring Heart" Award is presented in the memory of Mr. Leo Anderson, a business owner and long time supporter of the Victoria County 4-H program and youth. He was always using his resources to make life better for all the citizens of this county. Through his efforts, many 4-H members benefited greatly. This award was created in 1996 in memory of Mr. Anderson and is sponsored by the David Hanselka family. Recipients name is placed on an 8x10 plaque that remains on display at the County Extension Office.

Requirements:

1. **Must be currently active in 4-H.**
2. **Should have excelled in community service projects and activities through 4-H, School, Church, or other civic organizations.**
3. **Provided leadership in conduction community service projects.**
4. **Have proof or documentation that the community service projects have been successful in creating a better life for Victoria County Citizens.**
5. **Recommendations from non 4-H related persons involved in community service projects.**



4-H Scholarship Opportunities



High school seniors have many opportunities to apply for scholarships through 4-H in order to further their education. Scholarship announcements, applications and deadlines can be found in the 4-H Newsletter and at the Extension Office.

Texas 4-H Foundation Opportunity

Over 170 potential scholarships are offered through the Texas 4-H Foundation. 4-H members must have made plans to attend a vocational school, college, or university within Texas. The application is due February 1st of each year. Applicants are then selected to receive an interview that takes place each May in Austin. Scholarships are awarded at Texas 4-H Roundup in College Station in June.

Houston Go-Texan

This application is mailed directly to Houston and open to all graduating seniors of Victoria County that meet the basic requirements.

Victoria County Go-Texan

This award winner is selected by the local Go-Texan Committee.

Victoria Livestock Show

VLS awards multiple scholarships each year. They are the Dan McCue Memorial Scholarship, the Walter Gillig, Jr. Memorial Scholarship, and several additional scholarships that are created from additional funding.

South Texas Farm & Ranch Show

The South Texas Farm & Ranch Show awards multiple scholarships based on two applications. One application is for the top 25% of the class and the second application can be completed by those in the top 50% of their graduating class.

Velda Stout & Joyce M. Brown Scholarship

Graduating 4-H members are encouraged to apply for this scholarship honoring these long-time 4-H Supporters.

Independent Cattlemen's Association (ICA)

Graduating seniors that meet the requirements of the ICA may apply.

Victoria County Soil & Water Conservation District

Graduating seniors that meet the requirements of the SWCD may apply.