



## **Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program**

### **What's New in 2020:**

The Texas 4-H Foundation has adopted a new platform to submit applications and, if awarded, maintain the scholar's funds through the life cycle of the scholarship. Some of the features of our scholarship portal include:

- ✿ Ability for the applicant to create an account to submit, monitor progress, and receive updates regarding their application.
- ✿ Applicants will be able to request school administration academic verifications by emailing their administrator through the system. The administrator will complete the request and submit.
- ✿ If awarded, the applicant will submit semester funding requests and required documentation as well as track their funds throughout the scholarship life cycle in the new scholarship portal.
- ✿ The system will send reminders to the scholar about submitting requests and approaching deadlines.
- ✿ There is no longer an approval step at the County/District level prior to final submission. Once the applicant selects "Submit", they will receive a confirmation email that their application has been successfully submitted.

### **How you can help:**

The Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship application will go live November 1<sup>st</sup>. Additional rules and guidelines are available on the Texas 4-H Foundation website: [texas4hfoundation.org](https://texas4hfoundation.org) under the Scholarships tab.

**How to apply:** Go to the [texas4hfoundation.org](https://texas4hfoundation.org) website and click "Scholarships" then select the type of scholarship you are interested in (i.e. Baccalaureate, Technical, Courageous Heart or Collegiate). There will be an "Apply" button on each of the pages that will take you to the new Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship Portal. You will then create a profile. Additional instructions on how to apply are available on each of the scholarship pages.

### **Students should:**

- ✿ Apply early.
- ✿ Be prepared.
  - FAFSA report (SAR) and EFC must be included with submission. Applicants should complete the FAFSA as soon as possible.
  - Applicants need to use an email account that they will have access to beyond high school; NOT tied to an academic institution.
  - Applicants need to know their County Extension Agent contact information.



- Applicants will need to submit a high school transcript, SAT/ACT results and, if applying for Courageous Heart, (3) letters of recommendation.
- ✿ Answer questions fully.
  - Text fields are limited. All answers need to be organized, well-written, thorough, and pertinent.
- ✿ Review applications.
  - Before submitting, carefully review all sections of the application for quality and spelling. Applicants can print the application prior to submitting. We recommend having another set of eyes look over the application.

### **Things to Remember:**

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

### **Important Dates:**

Application Opens: November 1<sup>st</sup>

Application Deadline: February 14<sup>th</sup>

Interview Notifications (Tentative): April 3<sup>rd</sup>

Interviews: April 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>

Award Notifications (Tentative): May 4<sup>th</sup>

Texas 4-H Roundup: June 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>