

# HARRIS COUNTY 4-H AWARDS PROGRAM



## HANDBOOK & APPLICATIONS

All applications and forms are due to the  
extension office by 5pm

Thursday, July 1, 2021

All forms and applications can be accessed on  
4-H Connect.

Applications will be accepted via email to  
[julie.menn@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:julie.menn@ag.tamu.edu) or mail to Harris  
County 4-H, 13105 Northwest Freeway, Suite  
1000, Houston, Texas 77040

713.274.0965

The Harris County 4-H Awards Program is designed to recognize the accomplishments of 4-H members for their project work, leadership skills, personal growth and development, and participation in various 4-H sponsored activities. The Harris County 4-H Awards Program is coordinated in conjunction with the Texas 4-H Awards Program. All three groups (county, district, and state) provide donors or funds for various scholarships, trips, medals, and other awards. The Harris County 4-H Program and the Harris County 4-H Awards Committee oversee the awards and reserve the right to solicit nominations for any award in which there is a lack of nominations on the due date.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

1. The Texas 4-H year is defined as September 1 through August 31.
2. Age requirements: Youth are eligible to participate in the 4-H year if they are in the third grade as of September 1 of the current year through the completion of the twelfth grade with a maximum age of 18 (as of August 31.) Youth who are between the ages of 5 and 8 but are not yet in the third grade are also eligible to participate in the 4-H year at the club and county level. They are known as Clover kids.

## **4-H AGE DIVISIONS**

Juniors - School grades 3, 4, and 5; Intermediates - School grades 6, 7, and 8; Seniors - School grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

## **4-H CLUB ACHIEVEMENT EVENTS**

Each 4-H club is encouraged to plan and implement their own 4-H achievement event at the end of each 4-H year. A publication entitled "The Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program Management Guide" contains a section regarding 4-H recognition that provides excellent guidelines and ideas. The National 4-H Supply Service catalog or 4-H Mall online has numerous items available for awards and recognition for 4-H club members. Each club is responsible for the expenses incurred. Each year, each club will be given time during the county awards program to recognize their 4-H members.

## HARRIS COUNTY 4-H AWARDS PROGRAM

A County 4-H Awards Program, usually a banquet, is held in August of each year to honor 4-H members and leaders for their accomplishments and leadership and supporters for their contributions. The awards listed below are presented during the County Awards Program:

Gold Star☘	Unsung Hero
Danforth "I Dare You" ☘	Paper Clover Campaign
Silver Star ☘	Outstanding 4-H Adult Leader (1 male and 1 female)
Bronze Star ☘	

\*County, District, State and National 4-H competitions.

A Record Book must be completed in order for a 4-H member to be eligible for the awards denoted with a ☘.

### AWARDS BY AGE DIVISION

<b>Junior</b>	<b>Intermediate</b>	<b>Senior</b>
Project Pin	Project Pin	Project Pin
Bronze Star	Silver Star	Gold Star
Unsung Hero Award	Unsung Hero Award	Danforth "I Dare You"
Rookie of the Year	Rookie of the Year	Unsung Hero Award
		Rookie of the Year

### ADULT AWARDS

Outstanding 4-H Leader	Legacy Leader	Salute to Excellence Club Manager
Rookie 4-H Club Manager of the Year	Community Partner Volunteer	

### PROJECT PIN

Project pins will be awarded to 4-H members who complete and submit a 4-H project record book for the County 4-H Record Book Contest. 4-H members may submit only one 4-H project record book per year and receive only one project pin per year. Project pins will be presented at the annual Harris County 4-H Awards Program.

## **4-H GOLD STAR AWARD GUIDELINES**

The Gold Star Award is the highest County 4-H Achievement Award and intended to be received only once in a member's 4-H career. The following criterion is based upon the state guidelines as stated in the current Texas 4-H Opportunities Handbook. Any 4-H member not meeting criteria will not be considered for this award. Counties have award quotas based on the number of senior 4-H members. This award will be presented to the most deserving young people without regard to sex. The following requirements must be met:

### Criteria for selection:

1. The member must be at least 15 years of age as of the date of the application (per State guidelines) of the current 4-H year.
2. The 4-H member must have completed at least three years in 4-H, including the current year.
3. The 4-H member must submit a 4-H record book in the year he or she is to be considered for the award.
4. The 4-H member must have completed projects in three different project areas, have submitted appropriate record forms on those projects and have participated in one or more activities in at least three of the following areas:

Educational Presentations, Citizenship activities, projects, project exhibits, camps, leadership labs, public relations (speeches, poster displays, radio, TV, newspapers), other (including exchange programs, fund raising, State and National Congress, etc.)

*Note: It is not expected that the requirements for projects and activities all be completed in the current year. They may have been accomplished over the entire period of time the 4-H'er has been in the program.*

During his or her 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 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. Examples are working or counseling with junior 4-H members; participating in community service projects (individual, group, or club-type); and motivating other 4-H members through participation in demonstrations, projects and/or exhibits. County Gold Star allotments are determined by the State 4-H Office. These allotments are sent to the District Office for approval.

## **DANFORTH - "I DARE YOU" AWARD GUIDELINES**

The Danforth - "I Dare You" Award is the second highest award given on the county level. The award guidelines are the same as those for the Texas 4-H Gold Star Award. There will be a maximum of two Danforth - I Dare You Awards given each year in Harris County 4-H. The actual number of Danforth awards given will be decided by the selection committee, based on the merits of the applicants. This award may be received only once.

### **HISTORY OF THE DANFORTH - "I DARE YOU" AWARD**

Mr. William H. Danforth's book, "I Dare You," was first published in 1931. It is still considered one of the most influential books in the area of personal motivation. The book is published and distributed by the American Youth Foundation through its I Dare You Committee. The award is offered as recognition of excellence in character and well-balanced development, as well as demonstrated leadership.

## **SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE GOLD STAR AND DANFORTH - "I DARE YOU" AWARDS**

1. An application form for the award must be completed and submitted by the due date. The current 4-H Record Book must accompany the form.
2. All qualified applicants will be considered. A non-biased panel of judges will review the form and Record Book and conduct a personal interview with the applicant. All applicants' interviews will be conducted on the same date unless there is an unexpected situation and the applicant can't make the interview, a phone interview will take place.
3. The same person may not receive both the Gold Star Award and the Danforth Award in the same year.
4. Once awarded the Gold Star Award, a 4-H member is ineligible to receive the Danforth Award. However, after receiving the Danforth Award, a 4-H member may apply the following year for the Gold Star Award.
5. The decision of the judges will be final.
6. The awards given for Gold Star and Danforth - "I Dare You" are as follows:

DANFORTH AWARD - Engraved plaque and "I Dare You" book

GOLD STAR AWARD – Certificate and a Gold Star Pin and another award at Harris County 4-H choice.

### **SILVER STAR AWARD**

The Silver Star Award will be presented each year to a maximum of three outstanding intermediate members. The actual number of Silver Star Awards given will be decided by the judges and based on the merits of the applicants.

The selection is based on quality of project work, involvement in club programs and activities, and future goals for the member's 4-H career.

1. An application form for the award must be completed and submitted by the due date.
2. A non-biased panel of judges will review the application and record book. Interviews will be conducted with each applicant. The decision by the judges will be final.
3. A 4-H member may receive the Silver Star Award only one time.
4. The recipient of this award will receive an engraved plaque.

## **BRONZE STAR AWARD**

The Bronze Star Award will be presented each year to a maximum of three outstanding junior members. The actual number of Bronze Star Awards given will be decided by the judges and based on the merits of the applicants. The selection is based on quality of project work, involvement in club programs and activities, and future goals for the member's 4-H career.

1. An application form for the award must be completed and submitted by the due date.
2. A non-biased panel of judges will review the application and record book. Interviews will be conducted with each applicant. The decision by the judges will be final.
3. A 4-H member may receive the Bronze Star Award only one time.
4. The recipient of this award will receive an engraved plaque.

## **4-H UNSUNG HERO AWARD**

The 4-H Unsung Hero Award will be given to one 4-H member in each age division (junior, intermediate, senior) who has worked hard, particularly in helping others, but has received little recognition on the county level.

1. A club manager or project leader may submit a nomination on one 4-H member in each age division. The nomination form is available at the 4-H Office. The nomination form is to be completed and turned in to the 4-H Office.
2. The nominations will be judged by a panel of judges selected by County Extension Agents. Judges decisions will be final.
3. This award can be received only once per age division.
4. The recipient of this award will be presented with an award.

### **OUTSTANDING 4-H ADULT LEADER AWARD**

The Outstanding 4-H Adult Leader Awards will be presented to two leaders (one male and one female) each year. The recipients must be enrolled in 4-H and actively providing leadership in some capacity with the Harris County 4-H Program. Applications must be submitted to the 4-H Office.

1. Any adult may nominate adult leaders. Nominations should be based on leadership involvement in county, district, and/or state 4-H activities.
2. The award will be given to two individuals (one male and one female) or one husband and wife team and another individual. A husband/wife team will be considered as one nomination.
3. Applications will be reviewed by a panel of judges.
4. This award may be received only once.
5. The recipients will be presented with a gift award.

### **4-H CLUB ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The Rookie-Of-The-Year Award is given to first year 4-H member enrolled for each club in each age division.

1. A 4-H parent, club manager, project leader, or senior 4-h member may submit a nomination on one 4-H'er in each age division. The nomination form is available from the 4-H Office. A one paragraph statement should be provided about why special recognition is deserved. The nominations are to be completed and turned in to the 4-H Office by the due date.
2. The nominations will be judged by a panel of judges selected by County Extension Agents. Judges decisions will be final.
3. This award can be received only once per age division.
4. Winners will be presented with an award.

# HARRIS COUNTY 4-H AWARDS APPLICATION FORM

Please select the award for which you are applying:

GOLD STAR  Danforth - "I DARE YOU"  SILVER STAR  BRONZE STAR

Add an additional page with a 100-word script that can be used when presenting the award at the banquet.

APPLICANT'S FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS' NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF YEARS IN 4-H: PRIMARY 4-H CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE AS OF AUGUST 31 OF CURRENT YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE AS OF AUGUST 31 OF CURRENT YEAR: BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H CLUB NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What project(s) do you consider to be your primary area(s) of involvement over the past one to four years?

2. What life skill (i.e. record keeping, public speaking, etc.) have you learned through this/these project(s)? What did you enjoy most about the project(s)?

3. What influence has your 4-H involvement had on your family?



4. What do you consider to be your most meaningful 4-H experience?

5. Has 4-H helped you in making future plans and goals? If so, what are your plans and goals at this time? (Example: school, career, family, project goals)

6. What is the most meaningful award recognition you have received as a result of your 4-H involvement?

7. How have others gained from your leadership experiences?

8. What suggestion(s) would you make to change your county's 4-H program and what would you be willing to do to help make the change?

Write a short script that could be used when presenting the award, if selected. Include your most outstanding accomplishments in 4-H (150 words maximum, add a page, if needed.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of applicant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

# HARRIS COUNTY 4-H UNSUNG HERO AWARD NOMINATION FORM

One junior, one intermediate, and one senior 4-H'er from each 4-H club may be nominated for this award. Form to be completed by 4-H Club Manager.

NAME OF 4-H'ER: \_\_\_\_\_

AGE AS OF AUGUST 31 OF CURRENT YEAR: BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF YEARS IN 4-H: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PRIMARY CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: When completing the sections below, please be specific and show numbers when possible.)

1. Volunteer leadership - List what the 4-H'er did to assist others, including other 4-H members.

2. Community service and citizenship - List all activities related to 4-H.

3. List 4-H projects, workshops, demonstrations, and educational activities of the 4-H'er.

4. Write a paragraph as to why this 4-H nominee should be chosen for the 4-H Unsung Hero Award.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Club Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## OUTSTANDING 4-H ADULT LEADER AWARD NOMINATION FORM

NAME OF PERSON MAKING NOMINATION: \_\_\_\_\_

LEADER NOMINATED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why do you think this leader is an outstanding leader?

2. What does this leader do that is outstanding? (Example: Teaches others new projects, takes 4-Her's on tours, leads club, etc.)

3. How has this leader helped you?

4. How has this leader helped others?

# HARRIS COUNTY 4-H ROOKIE-OF-THE-YEAR NOMINATION FORM

One junior and one intermediate (that joined for the first time ever) from each 4-H club may be nominated for this award. Form to be completed by 4-H Club Manager.

APPLICANT'S FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS' NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

AGE AS OF AUGUST 31 OF CURRENT YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE AS OF AUGUST 31 OF CURRENT YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Volunteer leadership - List what the 4-H'er did to assist others, including other 4-H members.

2. Community service and citizenship - List all activities related to 4-H.

3. List 4-H projects, workshops, demonstrations, and educational activities of the 4-H'er.

4. Write a paragraph as to why this 4-H nominee should be chosen for the 4-H Rookie-Of-The Year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Club Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## OUTSTANDING 4-H LEADER

This award recognizes outstanding contributions of a 4-H Adult Leader who is not a Club Manager and has supported a variety of programs, projects, and events that have had a positive impact on the Harris County 4-H Program.

NAME OF NOMINEE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_ # YEARS AS LEADER: \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON SUBMITTING AWARD: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee should meet some (not all) of the following criteria. Check all that apply.

- Shown commitment to 4-H members, community and club
- Is a mentor to others, providing inspiration and encouragement
- Supports various 4-H programs and activities
- Performs unselfish acts of service to 4-H and others in the community
- Supports the Club Manager and other volunteers to accomplish tasks
- Demonstrates exceptional leadership skills on the local, county, state and possibly national level
- Dedicated to making the 4-H program grow
- Teaches and leads project workshops

Explain why the volunteer has demonstrated how they meet the criteria you selected above and why they deserve this award (attach an additional page if needed):

**Write a brief script to be read at the awards program if this nominee is selected: ((200 words max))**

## LEGACY LEADER AWARD

This award recognizes a 4-H Adult Leader or Club Manager who has been dedicated to the 4-H program over the past 5 or more years leaving an important legacy that has become the foundation for the future of a 4-H Club, project, event or community program.

NAME OF NOMINEE: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_ # YEARS AS SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON NOMINATING: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the Legacy this nominee has left and how it has benefitted others:

Explain the contributions made by the nominee over the years to strengthen the 4-H program: (500 words max add additional page if needed)

**Write a script to be read at the Awards Program if this nominee is selected: (200 words max)**

## SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE CLUB MANAGER AWARD

This award recognizes outstanding leadership and dedication by a Club Manager to meet the Standards of Excellence at the club level. This Club Manager has served minimum 3 years and consistently pursued excellence to grow and sustain the quality of the educational experience offered at the 4-H club.

NAME OF NOMINEE: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_ # YEARS AS SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON NOMINATING: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### Standards of Excellence: (check all that apply and that this nominee has completed)

\_\_\_\_\_ Club/group members were actively involved in planning the club/group's annual program.

\_\_\_\_\_ Club/group selected an area of focus for their annual programs.

*(Ex: project areas, speakers, community service or club/group is represented in the community, by serving on a committee, council or board with adult partners.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Club/Group members were involved in implementing the annual program/activities.

*(Ex: planning and bringing snacks; leading the pledges; calling club/group members for a meeting or assignment; presenting a demonstration, leading recreation.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ A calendar for the year was printed and distributed to members, parents, volunteers, and the local Extension Office. *(Ex: identify meeting dates, locations, educational programs; special projects; social events; county or district events)*

\_\_\_\_\_ All members were invited and at least 50% of club/group members were involved in at least nine club/group activities during the year. *(Ex: meetings, training, or recognition event)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Club/Group officers were elected or appointed, according to the By-laws.

\_\_\_\_\_ club/Group completed at least one (1) promotion activity that promotes 4-H visibility at the community level. *(Ex: community parade, TCS Fund Raiser, or One Day 4-H)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Club/Group recruited at least one (1) project volunteer for at least 50% of the member's project learning areas and club submitted Recordbooks (some not all members)

\_\_\_\_\_ Group developed a method to communicate with families at least three (3) times per year regarding club/group activities, education, and achievements.

\_\_\_\_\_ Club/Group planned at least one (1) activity to include parents and families in club/group activities. *(Ex: project showcase; skating party; tours; recognition event)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Members took part in a variety of non-competitive activities and/or meetings beyond the 4-H club/group level. *(Ex: county project workshops; council meetings; interstate exchange programs)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Members participated in competitive 4-H events beyond the club/group level. *(Ex: county events; district events; Houston Livestock Show; Texas 4-H Roundup; project area competitions)*

**Write a script describing why this nominee should be recognized. (400 words max)**

## ROOKIE 4-H CLUB MANAGER AWARD

This award recognizes outstanding leadership and dedication by a Club Manager to meet the Standards of Excellence at the club level in the first year serving as a Club Manager.

NAME OF NOMINEE: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_ # YEARS AS SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON NOMINATING: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### Standards of Excellence: (check all that apply and that this nominee has completed)

\_\_\_\_\_ Club/group members were actively involved in planning the club/group's annual program.

\_\_\_\_\_ Club/group selected an area of focus for their annual programs.

*(Ex: project areas, speakers, community service or club/group is represented in the community, by serving on a committee, council or board with adult partners.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Club/Group members were involved in implementing the annual program/activities.

*(Ex: planning and bringing snacks; leading the pledges; calling club/group members for a meeting or assignment; presenting a demonstration, leading recreation.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ A calendar for the year was printed and distributed to members, parents, volunteers, and the local Extension Office. *(Ex: identify meeting dates, locations, educational programs; special projects; social events; county or district events)*

\_\_\_\_\_ All members were invited and at least 50% of club/group members were involved in at least nine club/group activities during the year. *(Ex: meetings, training, or recognition event)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Club/Group officers were elected or appointed, according to the By-laws.

\_\_\_\_\_ club/Group completed at least one (1) promotion activity that promotes 4-H visibility at the community level. *(Ex: community parade, TCS Fund Raiser, or One Day 4-H)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Club/Group recruited at least one (1) project volunteer for at least 50% of the member's project learning areas and club submitted Recordbooks (some not all members)

\_\_\_\_\_ Group developed a method to communicate with families at least three (3) times per year regarding club/group activities, education, and achievements.

\_\_\_\_\_ Club/Group planned at least one (1) activity to include parents and families in club/group activities. *(Ex: project showcase; skating party; tours; recognition event)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Members took part in a variety of non-competitive activities and/or meetings beyond the 4-H club/group level. *(Ex: county project workshops; council meetings; interstate exchange programs)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Members participated in competitive 4-H events beyond the club/group level. *(Ex: county events; district events: Houston Livestock Show; Texas 4-H Roundup; project area competitions)*

**Write a script describing why this nominee should be recognized. (400 words max)**



## COMMUNITY PARTNER VOLUNTEER AWARD

This award recognizes a volunteer in the community who may not be a 4-H Adult Leader or volunteer but has contributed support to the 4-H program at the club, county, district or state level to further quality 4-H programs.

PERSON SUBMITTING AWARD: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF NOMINEE: \_\_\_\_\_

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the Volunteer meet the following criteria? Check all that apply.

*(Note: The nominee does not need to meet all the criteria, please explain how he/she does meet the criteria you select).*

- Shown commitment to 4-H members, community and club
- Is a mentor to others, providing inspiration and encouragement
- Supports various 4-H programs and activities
- Performs unselfish acts of service to 4-H and others in the community
- Exhibits a giving spirit in the 4-H community and their world
- Demonstrates exceptional leadership skills on the local, county, state and possibly national level
- Dedicated to making the 4-H program grow
- Is a great example of 4-H Volunteerism

How does the volunteer meet the criteria you selected above? (300 words max)

**Write a script to be read at the awards program to explain why this person should receive this award. (use additional page if needed)**