

Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program

Application and Submission Guidelines



2024

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

These Guidelines should be reviewed and followed by any Texas 4-H member applying for a 2024 Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship. Both 4-H members and parents/guardians are encouraged to review the rules and guidelines prior to beginning the application process to ensure eligibility and proper completion of application.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarships are SCHOLARSHIPS awarded each year to applicants based on their academic record, 4-H experience, and financial need (for scholarships for which it is a required criterion). The Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program is conducted by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation.

Well over 200 academically-competitive scholarships will be awarded in the 2024 Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program ranging in amounts from \$1000 to \$20,000.* No scholarship recipient whose award is based on this application process will receive less than \$1000.* The Texas 4-H Foundation seeks to ensure that each recipient receives the highest dollar amount of scholarship for which that recipient is eligible. For the majority of the total scholarships and scholarship funds available, participation in a livestock show is not a requirement for consideration for an Opportunity Scholarship.

BEFORE YOU APPLY FOR A TEXAS 4-H OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

Texas 4-H Youth Development Program, Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation, and the donors have the expectation and requirement that every 4-H member being awarded a Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship be present (in person) at the scholarship interviews in College Station and the scholarship awards banquet(s) in College Station. Before you begin your scholarship application, please review the dates below to be sure that you are able, and willing, to participate in the dates mentioned. Applicants and families should schedule vacations, other award trips, sports activities, etc. at other times than those listed below.

Due Dates and Deadlines for 2024:

By January 31, 2024	Applicant complete FAFSA
February 15, 2024	Applications due
March 31, 2024	FAFSA Reports DUE
April 2024	Interview selection notification
April 26 - 27, 2024	Interviews in College Station
June 4-6, 2024	Awards Assembly in College Station

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program provides scholarships in three different categories. Each scholarship category has its own requirements and criteria. It is up to the applicant to make sure that he/she clearly understands the requirements and completes the application in order to be considered. Applicants may only apply for **one** category and complete the appropriate application.

- Baccalaureate Scholarships - For students who wish to pursue a Bachelor of Science (BS) or Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree from an accredited Texas College or University.
- Technical Certification Scholarships - For students who wish to pursue technical certification in a recognized and approved major/course of study.
- Courageous Heart Scholarships – Scholarships awarded to Texas 4-H members pursuing either a Baccalaureate or Technical degree that have overcome extreme obstacles related to medical, family, and/or education and remained an active member in both 4-H and school.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

1. Be an active member of the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program for the current year AND at least two of the three previous years, for a minimum of three years of participation. The applicant must also have a current 4-H Connect profile, and be in good standing with the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program at all levels (county, district, and state).
2. Be a United States citizen. If the applicant's transcript reflects a place of birth other than the United States, proof of naturalization must be provided with the scholarship application.
3. Be a Texas resident.
4. Be scheduled to graduate from a Texas High School (public, private, or home) during the 2023-2024 school year.
5. Have made formal application to enroll with intent to attend an accredited, Texas College or University in the Fall of the year scholarship is awarded. Youth with plans or intentions of attending a non-Texas College/University/Trade School are not eligible to apply. If your intentions or plans change after being awarded a scholarship, you will forfeit the scholarship.
6. Have been accepted into a Texas College/University or technical school by the time of the interview.
7. Complete and pass all necessary standardized test(s)/requirements for graduation and meet the entrance requirements for the college or university for which formal application has been made.
8. An applicant may apply for a Texas 4-H and Texas FFA scholarship; however, some restrictions may apply.
9. Submit a 2024 Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship application via the Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship Portal.
10. Applicants who receive a Terry Foundation Scholarship are NOT eligible to receive a Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship.
11. All scholarship recipients MUST BE PRESENT at Scholarship Interviews and donor banquet/event(s), in order to receive a 4-H scholarship. If you believe there are exceptional or extenuating circumstances which preclude you from attending these events, you may submit a written appeal via email to the Executive Director of the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation by May 1. All exceptions must be approved by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation.
12. Application must be **complete** and correct once submitted for consideration. Any application deemed incomplete or incorrect will be disqualified for consideration.
13. Once an application is submitted no portion or information can be updated, revised, and/or corrected.
14. The Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation and the Scholarship Committee has the right to refuse, reassign, and/or retract any scholarship application or scholarship award during the judging,

awarding, or post awarding process. Refusal/retraction can be based on, but not limited to, nonfactual and incorrect information provided in the application, statements made during the interview that contradicts application, or failure to meet any criteria or eligibility requirements prior to or after award offer has been made.

ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORY

Applicant may only apply for ONE category.

BACCALAUREATE SCHOLARSHIP

1. There is not a quartile ranking minimum to apply but based on scholarship criteria, some scholarships require an applicant to be in the upper one-fourth of their class.

TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION SUBMISSION

1. DO NOT have plans to continue formal education at a Texas College and/or University after the completion of a technical program.

COURAGEOUS HEART SCHOLARSHIP

1. Completed Courageous Heart application and have included three letters of support outlining in detail, the obstacle and how the applicant has overcome the situation.
2. Courageous Heart applicant cannot be considered for other Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarships.
3. Have documentation of obstacles related to health, education, and/or family situation.
4. All Courageous Heart Scholarships awarded are \$5,000 in value.

All applications are to be completed via the Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship Portal. All guides and instructions are available on the Texas 4-H Foundation website at: <http://texas4hfoundation.org>.

SCORING SYSTEM

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

Scoring Category	Baccalaureate	Technical	Courageous Heart
4-H Experience & Narratives Projects Leadership Citizenship & Community Service Honors Outside 4-H Experiences/Leadership Personal Narrative Career Narrative	70	75	40
Grade Point Average	10	5	0
Financial Need FAFSA Financial Need Narrative	10	10	10
Courageous Heart Narrative	NA	NA	25
Courageous Heart Letters of Recommendation	NA	NA	15
Interview	10	10	10
MAXIMUM AWARD POINTS	100	100	100

MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP DONOR CRITERIA (For Reference)

Donors of scholarship funds establish the criteria that must be followed by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation when considering applicants for scholarships. Applicants will only be considered for those Opportunity Scholarships for which they are fully qualified as determined by donor criteria. Interpretation of the donor criteria is the sole responsibility and at the sole discretion of the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation in consultation with donor representatives. Decisions regarding eligibility and qualifications are final. Criteria is not finalized until donor confirmations are received. The information provided below was the criteria established for the awarding of a few of the major 2023 scholarship donors and is for reference only for applicants to see the type of criteria assigned to scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIP	CLASS RANK	MAJOR	GPA	EXHIBITED AT SHOW	OTHER
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo	TOP 1/4	NO	NO	NO	Must not have received more than \$110,000 in financial aid or scholarships.
Rodeo Austin	TOP 1/4	NO	90% or higher	NO	
Fort Worth Stock Syndicate	TOP 1/2	YES Ag. & Life Science	NO	NO	
Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo	TOP 1/2		NO	YES	