Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program

Application & Submission Guidelines

Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation

2027

These Guidelines should be reviewed and followed by any Texas 4-H member applying for a 2027 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.

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

Overview

The Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarships are 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.

Over 200 academically-competitive scholarships will be awarded in the 2027 Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program ranging in amounts from $1,000 to $30,000. No scholarship recipient whose award is based on this application process will be receive less than $1,000. 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.

Please read the following guidelines carefully.

General Requirements

1. Be an enrolled 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 3 years of enrollment. Must have a current 4-HOnline profile and be in good standing with the Texas 4-H Youth Development program at all levels (County, District, and State).
2. Be a Texas Resident and United States citizen. If the applicant's transcript reflects a place of birth other than the United States, proof of naturalization must be provided.
3. Be scheduled to graduate from a Texas High School (public, private, or home) during the 2026-2027 school year.
4. Have applied to enroll with intent to attend an accredited, Texas College or University in the Fall of 2027. 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.
5. Have been accepted into a Texas College/University or Technical School for the Fall 2027 semester by the time of the interview.
6. 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.
7. All scholarship recipients MUST BE PRESENT at Scholarship Interviews and donor banquet/ event(s), to receive a scholarship.
8. Must have completed the 2027-2028 FAFSA Application by January 31st.
9. Must have the CEA verification form signed and uploaded into the

scholarship portal prior to submitting your scholarship application. *NEW*

10. A school official must complete the third-party verification form **prior** to you submitting your scholarship application.
11. Application must be complete and correct once submitted for consideration. Any application deemed incomplete or incorrect will be disqualified for consideration.
12. Applications must be submitted through the scholarship portal by 11:59 pm February 15.

The Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation 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.

The Texas 4-H Foundation reserves the right to review individual circumstances on a case-by-case basis when an applicant does not meet one or more eligibility requirements. The Foundation retains sole discretion to determine an applicant's eligibility for the Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program.

Deadlines & Dates for 2026

By January 31, 2027	Applicant must complete 2026-2027 FAFSA Application
By February 15, 2027 at 11:59 pm **There will be no exceptions to this deadline**	Application must be complete and submitted through the portal
Early April 2027	Interview notifications will be emailed out
April 23 – 25, 2027 in College Station **This is mandatory to receive a scholarship**	Interviews will take place for those selected to interview. Day & time signups will be offered.
June 9 – 10, 2027 in College Station **Attendance is mandatory to receive a scholarship**	Scholarship Banquets & Award Ceremonies will take place. The banquet date depends on the specific scholarship you receive.

Texas 4-H Youth Development Program, Texas 4-H 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 above 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 above.

Types of Scholarships

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

Baccalaureate – For students who plan to pursue a bachelor's degree at an accredited Texas University or College

- There is no quartile ranking minimum requirement. However, some donor criteria require a top ¼ or top ½ ranking to be considered for their specific scholarship.

Technical – For students pursuing a technical certificate in a recognized and approved major/course of study.

- Does NOT have plans to continue a formal education at a Texas College and/or University after the completion of a technical program or obtain a bachelor's degree.

Courageous Heart – For students pursuing a bachelor's degree or technical certificate that have overcome extreme obstacles related to medical, family, and/or education and remained an active member in both 4-H and school.

- Will upload 3 letters of support outlining in detail the obstacle and how the applicant has

overcome the situation.

- 1 additional narrative explaining your circumstances will be required.
- Have documentation of obstacles related to health, education, and/or family situation.
- All Courageous Heart Scholarships that are awarded are $5,000.

Basic Scholar Expectations

There are certain expectations for the scholars who receive Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarships. These expectations are laid out in detail in the Scholar Handbook. Updates & Resources - Texas 4-H Foundation (texas4hfoundation.org)

- Maintain a 2.0 GPA.
- Be enrolled in 12 credit hours at an accredited Texas University/College.
- Send an update letter to your donor each semester.
- Meet semester reporting deadlines to receive funds for the upcoming semester.
    - Must provide a transcript, class schedule with total credit hours, and a copy of your donor update letter.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Can I apply for both a Texas 4-H and Texas FFA Scholarship?** Yes – however some restrictions may apply for certain donors!
- **If I receive a Terry Foundation Scholarship, can I also receive a Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship?** No, scholars who receive a Terry Foundation Scholarship are not eligible for a 4-H opportunity Scholarship.
- **I have extenuating circumstances that prevent me from attending the 4-H Scholarship Banquet, what do I do?** you may submit a written appeal via email to texas4hfoundation@ag.tamu.edu by May 1st.
- **Can I change something in my application after I have submitted it?** Once an application is submitted no portion or information can be updated, revised, and/or corrected.
- **The FAFSA application isn't open yet, what do I do?** FAFSA applications for the 27-28 financial aid year will open October 1st. Check often and apply ASAP!
- **My counselor hasn't completed the GPA verification third party form yet.** Go visit your counselor in person, stay on top of this, remind them daily if needed! Give them the heads up about this **EARLY** in the application process.
- **My agent still needs to complete the agent verification form.** Make contact with your CEA **EARLY** in the process. Set up a time with them to go to their office and get this signed prior to the deadline. Be prepared for them to want to see your application before they sign the form.

All scholarship applications must be submitted through the online portal with all supporting documentation by 11:59 pm on February 15, 2027.

The Scholarship Portal can be accessed here: Scholarship Portal

The Guidelines can be found here: How to Apply

Additional resources: Scholarship Resources

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

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 2027 scholarship donors and is for reference only for applicants to see the type of criteria assigned to scholarships. There are many other donors not listed on this chart because they do not have ranking, or stock show participation restrictions.

SCHOLARSHIP	CLASS RANK	MAJOR	GPA	Participated AT SHOW
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo	No requirement	NO RESTRICTION	3.0 or higher	NO
Rodeo Austin	TOP 15%	NO RESTRICTION	3.5 or higher	YES
Fort Worth Stock Syndicate	TOP 50%	YES Ag. & Life Science	NO	YES
Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo	TOP 50%	NO RESTRICTION	NO	YES
San Antonio Livestock Exposition	No requirement	NO RESTRICTION	2.5 or higher	NO