

Leon County



4-H

**Awards &
Scholarship
Handbook**

LEON COUNTY 4-H AWARDS HANDBOOK

Adopted 2019

4-H MEMBERSHIP

The policy of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is to extend equal opportunities for membership and participation in 4-H activities to all Texas youth regardless of race, color, sex, religion, disability, age or national origin. This is done according to the provisions stated within any or all federal or state Equal Rights legislation, provided they meet the minimum requirements for membership indicated below:

- A youth must enroll in one or more 4-H projects through 4-H ONLINE.
- A member participates in 4-H by belonging to a 4-H membership unit in the county where he/she resides or attends school.
- The 4-H age divisions are:
 - Juniors - 3rd-5th grades
 - Intermediates - 6th-8th grades
 - Seniors - 9th-12th grades
- The Texas 4-H year is defined as September 1 through August 31.

LEON COUNTY 4-H AWARDS BANQUET

An Annual 4-H Awards Banquet is held each year (usually beginning of August) to recognize the accomplishments of all Leon County 4-H club members, volunteers and supporters. All club members and their families are encouraged to attend. Please read this handbook carefully to understand who is eligible to receive an award and the application procedures.

LEON COUNTY 4-H AWARD APPLICATION

Star Award Applications and Record books are due to Leon County Extension Office by emailing or dropping off by June 17, 2024 (Record books drop off on 6/20). Application can be found at <https://leon.agrilife.org/4-h/>. Award Interviews will take place on June 21, 2024. Those that cannot attend in person will submit a video prior to June 20, 2024.

AWARD ERRORS

Every effort is made to make sure no mistakes are made. However, human error is always a factor. If an error has occurred in awards, please notify the county extension agent immediately following the banquet.

GOLD STAR AWARD

The Gold Star Award is the highest county achievement award. Counties have award quotas based on the number of senior 4-H members. The award is presented to the most deserving young people. Leon County will award two (2) County Gold Star Awards. Each winner will receive an award item, certificate, \$200 Scholarship, and pin. The following are minimum requirements that must be met (The Texas 4-H guidelines will supersede these requirements as they are updated).

- The member must have at least completed, or be completing their 9th grade school year at the time of application, and must have completed at least 3 years in 4-H, including the current year.
- The Texas 4-H Gold Star Award can only be awarded once in a member's 4-H career.
- The 4-H member must have completed projects in at least three different project areas, submitted appropriate record forms, and have participated in one or more activities in at least three of the following areas:
 - Projects and/or Project Exhibits
 - Participation in Leadership Experiences such as Leadership Labs, Texas 4-H Congress, or National Leadership Events such as National 4-H Congress/Conference, and any county, district, or state leadership group.
 - Competitive Events (judging, educational presentation, public speaking, food show, quiz bowls, etc).
 - Citizenship activities
 - Camps at the county, district, or state level.
 - 4-H Promotion (speeches, poster displays, radio, TV, newspapers)
 - Other (includes exchange programs, fund raising)

Note: The requirements for projects and activities do not all have to be completed in the current year. They may have been accomplished over the entire period of time the person has been in the program.

The member must have exhibited leadership skills by serving as a 4-H officer or committee chair (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. Examples include providing leadership to a One Day 4-H project, working with or counseling junior 4-H members; participating in community service projects (individual, group or club); and motivating other 4-H members through participation in demonstrations, projects and/or exhibits.

The 4-H member **MUST SUBMIT A TEXAS 4-H RECORDBOOK** in the year they are to be considered for the award.

Leon County applicants must attend 2/3 of their club meetings during the current year to qualify. They must be a member in good standing with their local club. Club managers will be contacted to verify club member status. They must submit the official application found in this handbook and go through an interview process.

NOTE: The requirements for projects and activities do not all have to be completed in the current year. They may have been accomplished over the entire period of time the person has been in the program

SILVER STAR AWARD

The Silver Star Award is the highest county achievement award presented to an Intermediate 4-H member. The award is presented to the most deserving young person. Leon County will award up to two Silver Star Awards. The winner(s) will receive an award item. The following are minimum requirements that must be met:

- All eligible applicants must be an Intermediate 4-H member at the time of application and must have completed at least 2 years in 4-H, including the current year.
- The 4-H member **MUST SUBMIT A TEXAS 4-H RECORDBOOK** in the year they are to be considered for the award.
- The Silver Star Award can only be awarded once in a member's 4-H career.
- Applicants must attend 2/3 of their club meetings during the current year to qualify and must be a member in good standing with their local club.
- Applicants must submit the official application found in this handbook and go through an interview process.

BRONZE STAR AWARD

The Bronze Star Award is the highest county achievement award presented to a Junior 4-H member. The award is presented to the most deserving young person without regard to sex. Leon County will award up to two Bronze Star Awards. The winner(s) will receive an award item. The following are minimum requirements that must be met:

- All eligible applicants must be a Junior 4-H member at the time of application and must have completed at least 1 year in 4-H, including the current year.
- The 4-H member **MUST SUBMIT A TEXAS 4-H RECORDBOOK** in the year they are to be considered for the award.
- The Bronze Star Award can only be awarded once in a member's 4-H career.
- Applicants must attend 2/3 of their club meetings during the current year to qualify and must be a member in good standing with their local club. .
- Applicants must submit the official application found in this handbook and go through an interview process (with prepared questions). The extension office will send questions.

COUNTY ROOKIE AWARD

The Rookie Award is presented to a deserving young person who is completing their first year as a 4-H member. Leon County will award one Rookie Award. The winner will receive an award item. The county will recognize a finalist from each club and they will receive a plaque. The following are minimum requirements that must be met:

- All eligible applicants must be a first year 4-H member in the current application year.
- The applicant may be a member of any age division.
- The 4-H member **MUST SUBMIT A TEXAS 4-H RECORDBOOK** in the year they are to be considered for the award.
- The County Rookie Award can only be awarded once in a member's 4-H career.
- Each club will nominate a finalist from their club.
- Applicants must submit the official application found in this handbook.

PROJECT AWARD

Leon County will award a Project Award to each 4-H member that submits a **TEXAS 4-H RECORDBOOK** in the year they are to be considered for the award. Winners will receive a project pin and an award item.

BEYOND COUNTY LEVEL AWARDS

Leon County will recognize all 4-H members who compete in 4-H events beyond the county level (district, state, national contests and activities). Winners will receive an award item.

STARNES LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Starnes Leadership Award is presented in memory of Mrs. Elaine Starnes and the leadership she conveyed during her time spent with the 4-H program. This award is presented to the County Council President. The winner will receive an award item.

COURAGE TO CHANGE AWARD

The Courage to Change Award is in honor of Mr. Dick Wallrath. Mr. Wallrath, owner of Champion Ranch in Centerville, gives a multitude of scholarships to both 4-H and FFA each year. The winner is chosen by the Leon County 4-H Council peers and is given to the council member who has most improved their leadership skills over the past year. The winner will receive an award item.

DANFORTH - "I DARE YOU" AWARD

The Danforth - "I Dare You" Award is the second highest award given on the county level and is a National 4-H award. Leon County will award up to two Danforth Awards. This award can only be awarded once in a member's 4-H career. The winner(s) will receive a plaque and "I Dare You" book.

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.

- The award guidelines are the same as those for the Texas 4-H Gold Star Award.
- The same person may not receive both the Gold Star Award and the Danforth Award in the same year. Winners are eligible to attend the national Leadership Conference hosted by the American Youth Foundation. There are scholarships available for funding by the program. Visit the American Youth Foundation website.

FRIEND OF 4-H AWARD

Up to two Friend of 4-H Awards may be presented to an individual, business, company, or other group who has contributed to the success and expansion of 4-H in Leon County. The winner(s) will receive a plaque.

- This award should not be awarded to 4-H leaders or others who are directly involved in the 4-H program.
- Award may be received only one time in a five-year period of time.

SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award recognizes outstanding 4-H volunteers for their service to 4-H programs and the impact that they have had on the lives of young people. Leon County will select up to two Salute to Excellence Awards (Outstanding Leader Award) recipients. These recipients' names will then be forwarded to the District 8 office. Each district may select two recipients who will be honored with this award. The county honoree(s) will receive a plaque.

TEXAS 4-H LEADER LEGACY AWARD

Awarded to 4-H volunteers who have volunteered for 30 years in the 4-H program. Recipients will receive a plaque.

MEMBER YEAR PINS

Pins are presented to recognize each member for the year they are completing in 4-H

COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICER RECOGNITION

Recognition of current year's council officer. Officers are presented with a custom printed item.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS RECOGNITION

Recognition of all adult volunteers who are enrolled on 4-H Connect. Volunteers receive a gift item.

CLUB MANAGERS RECOGNITION

Recognition of each club manager and assistant club manager. Managers and assistant club managers receive a gift item.

4-H SCHOLARSHIPS

- Three (3) Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$700 to graduating seniors that complete the application and interview process. The scholarship recipients will be selected by a committee.
- Leon County 4-H Council Members Graduating Seniors that did not receive a \$700 scholarship, will receive a \$200 Scholarship. (Do Not have to submit a Scholarship Application)
 1. Guidelines outlined in Leon County 4-H Scholarship Application & Guidelines.
 2. Selection of scholarship recipients is done outside of the 4-H Advisory Board.
 3. Amount of Scholarships Awarded depends on Availability of Funds & Will be Assessed Each Year by the Leon County 4-H Advisory Board Finance Committee.

Questions Contact:

Leon County AgriLife Extension Service Office at:

903-536-2531 or Cassie.ferguson@ag.tamu.edu

<https://leon.agrilife.org/4-h/>

<https://leon.agrilife.org/4-h/4-h-award-applications-banquet/>

Visit us at: 113 West Main St. (3rd Floor) Centerville, TX 75833



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

*The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas
Cooperating*