TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

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.

Texas 4-H Gold Star Award

Introduction and History of the Gold Star:

The Gold Star Award is the highest achievement award given by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program through the county 4-H Program. The Texas 4-H Gold Star Award can only be awarded once in a member's 4-H career.

The presentation of the Gold Star Pin begun in 1933, the first year Mr. E.C. Martin was Boys 4-H Club Specialist. Mr. Martin tells us the pin was prompted by an effort to recognize the people who did the work rather than the agents. Previous to this time, the agents submitting the largest number of 4-H records received the recognition.

Records in the Extension Fiscal office indicates that the first Gold Star Pins were purchased in 1933. For the first several years the Gold Star Pins were presented at a dinner during Short Course at College Station. In the beginning each county made a nomination of their outstanding 4-H member and 100 members were selected to receive the award. After several years, the awardswere presented to the outstanding 4-H boy and 4-H girl in each county.

How quotas are determined:

Each county 4-H Program is provided a quota annually of the number of Gold Star Awards that can be awarded. These quotas are determined based on the total number of youth in 4-H Clubs in grades 10th to Post High School who have participate in the county program during the 2015-2016 year. Each county is guaranteed a minimum number of at least two Gold Stars annually. Quota numbers are calculated using the ES-237 report from 4-H CONNECT.

A list of the counties with their ES-237 enrollment and Gold Star Quota is provided. If additional Gold Stars are needed for very special circumstances, they are to be requested by the County Extension Agent to both the District Extension Administrator and 4-H Specialist. The request should include a clear justification for the additional Gold Star Award.

Quotas have been determined based on the following enrollment guidelines:

1 to 100 youth	2 Gold Star Winners
101 to 250 youth	3 Gold Star Winners
251 to 450 youth	4 Gold Star Winners
451 to 700 youth	5 Gold Star Winners
701 and over	6 Gold Star Winners

The Texas 4-H Gold Star award is presented to the most deserving young people without regard to gender.

Requirements for the Texas 4-H Gold Star

As the highest award given by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program, County Offices and Agents are ask to maintain a high level of integrity and honor through their selection process of county Gold Star recipients. At the MINIMUM, the following guidelines should be used in the eligibility and selection process for each county:

- 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.

Selection Process for Texas 4-H Gold Star Recipients

Because the Texas 4-H Gold Star is the highest award given to a 4-H member in Texas, the selection of each award recipient should be completed through a process that ensures the integrity and honor of the award, as well as provide the highest level of respect and consideration for the 4-H member applying.

All award opportunities, not just the Texas 4-H Gold Star Award, should be announced county wide through all communication methods utilized by the County Extension Office. This may include county newsletter, social media, e-mail blast, etc. Additionally, each club manager should be notified with the information.

The selection process should be completed by a unbiased selection committee who has a vast knowledge about 4-H in general, but who is not directly associated with any of the applicants. To achieve an unbiased committee it may be necessary for the County Office/Agent to recruit individuals from other counties to serve. An Extension Agent or Extension support staff member from the county selecting recipients should never serve on the selection committee. Additionally, no parent, sibling, or relative of an applicant should ever serve on the selection committee.

Once a committee selects the recipients, all parties involved in the awarding and recognition process should respect and honor the decision of the selection committee. If it is determined that an issue has arisen during the selection process, the County Extension Agent should contact their District Extension Administrator and District 4-H Specialist immediately for direction.

The minimum requirements to receive the Texas 4-H Gold Star Award is the submission of a 4-H Recordbook, a Gold Star Application, and an interview.

In preparation for interviews, the following guidelines should be considered:

• Announce interview date, time, and location in ample time (minimum 4 to 6 months) so all award applicants have time to determine their availability.

• Be consistent in any process of allowing an applicant to interview through other methods beyond a face-to-face interview. If one applicant is allowed to call in using a phone, then all other applicants should be allowed the same opportunity. Regardless of the interview method used, each applicant should be reviewed fairly and equally.

• A scoring matrix should be used to ensure integrity of the selection process. This includes both the recordbook/application and interview process.

• Use the same judges to select all the Gold Star award recipients.

• Applicants should be orientated either in writing or verbally about the format of the interview, including style of questions, number of judges, expectation of dress, etc. County Extension Agent expectation is to provide an opportunity for the 4-H member to be successful through the application and interview process.

The Texas 4-H Office has provided a sample awards application and scoring matrix that may be adopted by the county in the selection process of Gold Star (and other) award processes.

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	G.S.QUOTA
1	Armstrong	4	3	7	0	14	2
1	Briscoe	3	2	7	0	12	2
1	Carson	7	1	2	0	10	2
1	Collingsworth	2	5	1	0	8	2
1	Dallam	16	12	13	0	41	2
1	Deaf Smith	9	4	9	0	22	2
1	Donley	8	4	5	0	17	2
1	Gray	5	3	2	0	10	2
1	Hall	4	2	13	0	19	2
1	Hansford	8	11	3	2	24	2
1	Hartley	7	2	3	0	12	2
1	Hemphill	9	12	4	0	25	2
1	Hutchinson	6	3	6	0	15	2
1	Lipscomb	7	5	5	0	17	2
1	Moore	12	14	10	0	36	2
1	Ochiltree	5	6	7	0	18	2
1	Oldham	4	6	2	0	12	2
1	Potter	15	14	12	0	41	2
1	Randall	22	20	18	0	60	2
1	Roberts	9	6	4	0	19	2
1	Sherman	7	15	8	0	30	2
1	Wheeler	6	7	9	0	22	2
					DISTRICT 1 TOTAL		**44**

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	G.S.QUOTA
2	Bailey	3	5	1	0	9	2
2	Borden	7	3	4	0	14	2
2	Castro	7	6	2	0	15	2
2	Cochran	1	1	2	0	4	2
2	Crosby	9	9	9	0	27	2
2	Dawson	3	6	5	0	14	2
2	Floyd	3	4	0	0	7	2
2	Gaines	8	11	4	0	23	2
2	Garza	5	5	2	0	12	2
2	Hale	15	12	13	0	40	2
2	Hockley	9	5	8	0	22	2
2	Lamb	11	5	9	0	25	2
2	Lubbock	22	10	17	0	49	2
2	Lynn	4	3	3	0	10	2
2	Mitchell	6	2	4	0	12	2
2	Parmer	6	5	2	1	14	2
2	Scurry	13	3	4	0	20	2
2	Swisher	12	7	11	0	30	2
2	Terry	4	3	3	0	10	2
2	Yoakum	1	0	0	0	1	2
					DISTRICT 2 TOTAL		**40**

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	G.S.QUOTA
3	Archer	10	14	7	0	31	2
3	Baylor	7	6	5	0	18	2
3	Childress	5	7	3	0	15	2
3	Clay	13	7	4	0	24	2
3	Cottle	8	4	1	0	13	2
3	Dickens	10	8	5	0	23	2
3	Foard	5	4	5	0	14	2
3	Hardeman	14	6	3	0	23	2
3	Haskell	2	6	4	0	12	2
3	Jack	7	7	2	0	16	2
3	Kent	7	7	3	0	17	2
3	King	4	2	6	0	12	2
3	Knox	7	7	7	0	21	2
3	Montague	14	14	6	0	34	2
3	Motley	5	4	0	0	9	2
3	Palo Pinto	13	10	12	0	35	2
3	Parker	24	16	12	0	52	2
3	Stephens	4	6	6	0	16	2
3	Stonewall	6	1	5	0	12	2
3	Throckmorton	1	3	1	0	5	2
3	Wichita	17	12	17	0	46	2
3	Wilbarger	18	11	3	0	32	2
3	Wise	31	24	16	0	71	2
3	Young	7	9	8	0	24	2
					DISTRICT 3 TOTAL		**48**

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	G.S.QUOTA
4	Bowie	10	6	5	0	21	2
4	Camp	0	3	1	0	4	2
4	Cass	5	11	9	0	25	2
4	Collin	36	19	10	1	66	2
4	Cooke	19	11	12	0	42	2
4	Dallas	28	42	26	0	96	2
4	Delta	1	1	0	0	2	2
4	Denton	29	24	16	0	69	2
4	Fannin	6	2	6	0	14	2
4	Franklin	0	1	0	0	1	2
4	Grayson	16	16	11	0	43	2
4	Hopkins	6	9	5	0	20	2
4	Hunt	10	5	4	0	19	2
4	Kaufman	12	12	6	0	30	2
4	Lamar	10	6	10	0	26	2
4	Morris	0	1	0	0	1	2
4	Rains	9	9	13	0	31	2
4	Red River	8	8	2	0	18	2
4	Rockwall	9	10	7	0	26	2
4	Tarrant	40	24	18	1	83	2
4	Titus	3	0	0	0	3	2
4	Van Zandt	12	13	4	0	29	2
					DISTRICT 4 TOTAL		**44**

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	G.S.QUOTA
5	Anderson	4	11	5	0	20	2
5	Angelina	18	25	21	0	64	2
5	Cherokee	10	2	6	0	18	2
5	Gregg	5	1	4	0	10	2
5	Harrison	14	7	5	0	26	2
5	Henderson	17	15	17	0	49	2
5	Houston	6	4	6	0	16	2
5	Jasper	6	16	5	1	28	2
5	Marion	2	0	0	0	2	2
5	Nacogdoches	11	5	4	0	20	2
5	Newton	3	3	4	0	10	2
5	Panola	14	11	11	0	36	2
5	Polk	10	11	14	0	35	2
5	Rusk	10	5	1	0	16	2
5	Sabine	0	0	1	0	1	2
5	San Augustine	7	11	10	0	28	2
5	Shelby	6	7	3	0	16	2
5	Smith	13	5	4	0	22	2
5	Trinity	11	14	12	0	37	2
5	Tyler	1	2	0	0	3	2
5	Upshur	8	3	10	0	21	2
5	Wood	5	6	4	0	15	2
					DISTRICT 5 TOTAL		**44**
6	Andrews	19	12	9	1	41	2
6	Brewster	9	1	1	0	11	2
6	Crane	4	11	11	0	26	2
6	Crockett	3	3	3	0	9	2
6	Culberson	3	3	1	0	7	2
6	Ector	3	1	3	0	7	2
6	El Paso	4	9	3	0	16	2
6	Glasscock	8	4	2	0	14	2
6	Howard	9	7	2	0	18	2
6	Hudspeth	3	1	7	0	11	2
6	Jeff Davis	1	0	0	0	1	2
6	Martin	3	2	1	0	6	2
6	Midland	15	14	13	0	42	2
6	Pecos	8	4	4	0	16	2
6	Presidio	5	3	1	0	9	2
6	Reagan	1	4	3	0	8	2
6	Reeves	2	3	0	0	5	2
6	Terrell	3	1	2	0	6	2
6	Upton	3	1	1	0	5	2
6	Val Verde	20	12	12	0	44	2
6	Ward	14	6	7	0	27	2
6	Winkler	11	7	1	0	19	2
					DISTRICT 6 TOTAL		**44**

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	G.S.QUOTA
7	Brown	17	29	13	0	59	2
7	Burnet	18	7	10	0	35	2
7	Callahan	9	2	2	0	13	2
7	Coke	3	2	1	0	6	2
7	Coleman	7	9	10	0	26	2
7	Concho	1	1	2	0	4	2
7	Fisher	1	0	4	0	5	2
7	Irion	3	5	4	0	12	2
7	Jones	5	6	2	0	13	2
7	Lampasas	4	18	2	0	24	2
7	Llano	8	15	6	0	29	2
7	Mason	7	3	1	0	11	2
7	Mcculloch	7	15	7	0	29	2
7	Menard	6	5	3	0	14	2
7	Mills	2	2	4	0	8	2
7	Nolan	42	33	31	0	106	3
7	Runnels	5	13	13	0	31	2
7	San Saba	0	3	0	0	3	2
7	Schleicher	2	2	7	0	11	2
7	Shackelford	2	3	3	0	8	2
7	Sterling	6	4	9	0	19	2
7	Taylor	23	17	8	0	48	2
7	Tom Green	27	18	17	0	62	2
					DISTRICT 7 TOTAL		**47**

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	G.S.QUOTA
8	Bell	42	53	41	1	137	3
8	Bosque	7	8	5	0	20	2
8	Comanche	6	9	9	0	24	2
8	Coryell	31	22	14	0	67	2
8	Eastland	6	4	5	0	15	2
8	Ellis	24	22	27	0	73	2
8	Erath	16	21	10	0	47	2
8	Falls	17	11	3	0	31	2
8	Freestone	4	8	4	0	16	2
8	Hamilton	10	8	6	0	24	2
8	Hill	8	6	9	0	23	2
8	Hood	10	6	7	0	23	2
8	Johnson	28	38	24	0	90	2
8	Leon	22	24	21	0	67	2
8	Limestone	8	10	12	0	30	2
8	Mclennan	27	27	12	0	66	2
8	Milam	10	6	5	0	21	2
8	Navarro	23	23	13	0	59	2
8	Robertson	25	29	25	0	79	2
8	Somervell	5	8	2	0	15	2
8	Williamson	32	19	27	0	78	2
					DISTRICT 8 TOTAL		**43**

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	G.S.QUOTA
9	Brazoria	39	44	30	3	116	3
9	Brazos	63	56	32	0	151	3
9	Burleson	35	25	18	1	79	2
9	Chambers	19	25	14	0	58	2
9	Fort Bend	35	40	37	0	112	3
9	Galveston	26	35	26	0	87	2
9	Grimes	15	19	12	0	46	2
9	Hardin	10	3	5	0	18	2
9	Harris	140	93	84	0	317	4
9	Jefferson	27	12	14	0	53	2
9	Lee	11	21	20	0	52	2
9	Liberty	19	21	21	0	61	2
9	Madison	22	22	15	0	59	2
9	Montgomery	77	91	68	0	236	3
9	Orange	8	7	1	0	16	2
9	San Jacinto	2	4	5	0	11	2
9	Walker	27	33	15	0	75	2
9	Waller	26	19	16	0	61	2
					DISTRICT 9 TOTAL		**42**

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	G.S.QUOTA
10	Bandera	13	13	8	0	34	2
10	Bastrop	14	6	9	0	29	2
10	Bexar	217	205	163	3	588	5
10	Blanco	8	7	5	0	20	2
10	Caldwell	17	23	15	0	55	2
10	Comal	42	41	19	1	103	3
10	Edwards	0	0	0	0	0	2
10	Gillespie	30	19	23	0	72	2
10	Gonzales	19	21	12	0	52	2
10	Guadalupe	52	33	30	0	115	3
10	Hays	49	37	25	0	111	3
10	Kendall	45	44	33	0	122	3
10	Kerr	28	27	25	0	80	2
10	Kimble	6	5	6	0	17	2
10	Kinney	4	4	3	0	11	2
10	Medina	29	24	11	0	64	2
10	Real	14	9	6	0	29	2
10	Sutton	6	6	2	0	14	2
10	Travis	29	13	15	0	57	2
10	Uvalde	15	9	13	0	37	2
10	Wilson	40	36	30	1	107	3
					DISTRICT 10 TOTAL		**50**

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	G.S.QUOTA
11	Aransas	8	1	0	0	9	2
11	Austin	24	13	8	0	45	2
11	Bee	8	11	11	0	30	2
11	Calhoun	9	7	5	0	21	2
11	Colorado	5	5	5	0	15	2
11	Dewitt	17	25	17	0	59	2
11	Fayette	18	17	8	0	43	2
11	Goliad	15	12	15	0	42	2
11	Jackson	15	20	9	0	44	2
11	Karnes	7	11	5	0	23	2
11	Lavaca	20	23	23	0	66	2
11	Matagorda	27	15	19	0	61	2
11	Nueces	79	54	65	0	198	3
11	Refugio	13	12	9	0	34	2
11	San Patricio	14	24	18	0	56	2
11	Victoria	42	37	29	0	108	3
11	Washington	45	50	34	0	129	3
11	Wharton	18	22	21	0	61	2
					DISTRICT 11 TOTAL		**39**

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	G.S.QUOTA
12	Atascosa	20	20	15	0	55	2
12	Brooks	1	3	3	0	7	2
12	Cameron	39	26	29	0	94	2
12	Dimmit	7	10	8	0	25	2
12	Duval	8	5	6	0	19	2
12	Frio	13	12	10	0	35	2
12	Hidalgo	54	69	58	0	181	3
12	Jim Hogg	3	3	2	0	8	2
12	Jim Wells	15	18	14	0	47	2
12	Kenedy	0	0	0	0	0	2
12	Kleberg	38	41	22	0	101	3
12	Lasalle	10	6	7	0	23	2
12	Live Oak	16	14	13	0	43	2
12	Maverick	24	20	19	0	63	2
12	Mcmullen	2	2	3	0	7	2
12	Starr	23	22	8	0	53	2
12	Webb	40	50	36	0	126	3
12	Willacy	5	4	2	0	11	2
12	Zapata	9	15	13	0	37	2
12	Zavala	7	3	2	0	12	2
					DISTRICT 12 TOTAL		**43**