

## Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program Advisor Tips

### What's New in 2021

#### **SAT/ACT Requirement**

For the 2021 Application year, the SAT/ACT requirements will be removed. Applicants will not need to submit a score to apply.

#### **Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Financial Aid Cap**

HLSR has increased the Financial Aid Cap from \$90,000 to \$110,000. Applicants must not have received more than \$110,000 in financial aid or scholarships to receive a HLSR scholarship.

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#### **Just a reminder about our new system:**

The Texas 4-H Foundation adopted a new platform that launched last year to submit applications and, if awarded, maintain the scholar's funds through the life cycle of the scholarship. Some of the features of our scholarship portal include:

- Ability for the applicant to create an account to submit, monitor progress, and receive updates regarding their application.
- Applicants will be able to request school administration academic verifications by emailing their administrator through the system. The administrator will complete the request and response is attached to the application but held confidential.
- If awarded, the applicant will submit semester funding requests and required documentation as well as track their funds throughout the scholarship life cycle in the new scholarship portal.
- The system will send reminders to the scholar about when they need to submit requests, and reminders if deadlines are approaching.

#### **How you can help**

The Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Application will go live November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Additional information is available on the Texas 4-H Foundation website: [texas4hfoundation.org](http://texas4hfoundation.org) under Scholarships.

#### **Students should:**

- Apply early.
- Be prepared.
  - FAFSA report and EFC must be included prior to submission. Applicants should apply for FAFSA NOW, if they have not already done so.
  - Applicants need to use an email account that they will have access to beyond high school; NOT tied to an academic institution.
  - Applicants need to know their District and County Extension Agent contact information.
- Answer questions fully.

- Text fields are limited. All answers need to be organized, well-written, thorough, and pertinent. Applicants may upload answers.
- ✿ Review applications.
  - Before submitting, carefully review all section of the application for quality and spelling. Applicants can print the application prior to submitting.

#### **Things to Remember:**

- ✿ This is a **COMPETITIVE ACADEMIC** scholarship process.
- ✿ An application is competing against the pool of applicants from across the state – the best from across the state!
- ✿ Applicants change each year! (just because “it worked” for someone last year on their application, does not mean it will work this year)
- ✿ Judges change each year!
- ✿ No quotas are set for counties, districts, or regions!
- ✿ Fort Worth Stock Show is the only livestock show donor that requires participation in the show.
- ✿ DONORS set the criteria!
- ✿ Make sure high school academic proficiency has been met.

#### **Dates**

Application Opens: November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Application Deadline: February 15<sup>th</sup>

Interview Notifications (Tentative): Early April

Interviews: April 23-25

\*We hope to have face to face interviews but if we are still under strict guidelines, applicants should be prepared to submit a video interview.

Award Notifications (Tentative): Early May

Texas 4-H Roundup: June 8-10