



Brazos County Award Application & Recognition Handbook



2025-2026



Important Dates & Eligibility Requirements

All applications must be turned in, in person, to the Extension Office no later than-

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026, at 4:00 PM

Award interviews will be held, with no alternate dates for judging, on

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026

Contact Ashleigh (ashleigh.sugg@ag.tamu.edu) with conflicts ASAP to explore possible solutions. Upon the submission of all applications, award candidates will be contacted to schedule an interview time.

Eligibility-

Award age requirements are based on each member's age division
during the 2025-2026 4-H year.

Junior- Grades 3, 4, 5

Intermediate- Grades 6, 7, 8

Senior- Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Applicants **MUST** submit a 4-H Record Book for award consideration. However, you may opt out of having the Record Book judged for competition.

Important instructions for those accessing this online through Google Docs-
DO NOT request edit access, all requests will be denied. To edit the document either:

1. To stay in **Google**: go to File > Make a Copy > Name the Document > Make a Copy
2. To download in **Microsoft**: go to File > Download > Microsoft Word (.docx)



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Brazos County Awards Program

The Brazos County 4-H Awards Program is designed to recognize members for their project work, leadership, personal growth, and development. We hope that this handbook will be beneficial in informing members and families of the recognitions & awards available at the County Level.

Recognitions

Record Book Awards-

Judged Record Books will be reviewed following the Texas 4-H Record Book Score Sheet, that can be found [HERE](#). Following review at the County Level, all judged books will receive a quality ribbon based on the following scale- Blue (71-100% points possible), Red (51-70% points possible), & White (0-50% points possible). The First-Place book in each category will advance to the District Level.

4-H Completion Year Pins

Completion year pins are awarded to every 4-H member in the County who completes a 4-H project during the year & turns in a Record Book. The pins are presented based on years of membership listed in the submitted Record Book.

4-H Project Pins

Project pins are awarded to every 4-H member in the County who submits a Record Book highlighting their completed project for the year. The pins presented will reflect the project category in which the book was entered.

Rookie Award

Available to any 4-H member, regardless of age who is in their first year of membership.

4-H Honor Roll

Available to any Junior Members, grades 3rd-5th. Recognition may be received as many years as criteria are met. Criteria may be accumulated over multiple years as a Junior member or met within a single year.

4-H All-Star

Available to any Intermediate Members, grades 6th-8th. Recognition may be received as many years as criteria are met. Criteria may be accumulated over multiple years as an Intermediate member or met within a single year.

4-H Letterman

Available to any Senior Members, grades 9th-12th. Recognition may be received as many years as criteria are met. Criteria may be accumulated over multiple years as a Senior member or met within a single year.



Awards

Bronze Star

The Bronze Star Award will be presented to up to three (3) outstanding Junior 4-H Members, grades 3rd-5th. A member may receive the Bronze Star Award only once.

Silver Star

The Silver Star Award will be presented to up to three (3) outstanding Intermediates 4-H Members, grades 6th-8th. A member may receive the Silver Star Award only once.

Gold Star

The Gold Star Award will be presented to up to three (3) outstanding Senior 4-H Members, grades 9th-12th. The Gold Star Award is a state level award, so the quantity of Gold Stars available to be awarded is set by the Texas 4-H Program based on Senior Level membership from the previous 4-H Year (2024-2025). Award consideration is based on the members total 4-H career. A member may receive the Gold Star Award only once.

Danforth “I Dare You”

The Danforth “I Dare You” Award will be presented to up to three (3) outstanding Senior 4-H Members, grades 9th-12th. The Danforth Award is offered in recognition of excellence in character, demonstrated leadership, & well-balanced personal development. Award consideration is based on the members total 4-H career. A member may receive the Danforth Award only once.

Project Area Awards

Project area awards are made available for Intermediate & Senior Level 4-H Members to encourage & recognize excellence in 4-H project areas. A 4-H member is eligible for any Project Area Award only if the project is included in the submitted 4-H Record Book. A member may apply for all awards they are eligible for but is limited to one Project Area Award year and unable to win the same award twice.

Misc. Notes for Award Applications

Criteria for award consideration & judging process information can be found before the start of the application(s). A candidate evaluation rubric can be found following the application(s).

Please note that club managers will be notified of youth applying from their club.

Families are welcome to use a computer at the Brazos County Extension Office to complete Recognition or Award applications. Contact the office by calling 979-823-0129 to make arrangements.



REQUIRED

ALL applications for Bronze, Silver, Gold, Danforth, and Special County Awards are required to turn in this cover sheet, including a biography.

Name: _____ 4-H Club: _____

Email: _____

Applications Submitted: (please indicate with an **X** in the box)

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Rookie 4-H Member | ☐ Bronze Star (Jr) |
| ☐ 4-H Honor Roll (Jr) | ☐ Silver Star (Int) |
| ☐ 4-H All Star (Int) | ☐ Gold Star (Sr) |
| ☐ 4-H Letterman (Sr) | ☐ Danforth "I Dare You" (Sr) |
| | ☐ Special County Awards |

The biography should be 200 words or less, written in third person, and describe the award candidate's 4-H career. Highlights of major projects, life skills learned, or special notes that the member would like to share with the audience should be included.

NEW: Please refrain from including the name of the applicant or any relatives, to keep the reading of the biographies anonymous until the announcement.

Biography:



4-H Rookie Award

Available to any 4-H member, regardless of age, who just completed their first year of official 4-H membership.

Name: _____

Club: _____ Age: _____

The following requirements have been met for a 4-H Rookie Award:

Please indicate with an **X** in the box

- ☐ Completed at least one project
- ☐ Turned in a Record Book
- ☐ Gave a report to 4-H leader on the project
- ☐ Gave a demonstration or talk on or exhibited the project

4-H Member Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Club Manager Name



4-H Honor Roll Award

Available to any Junior Members, grades 3rd-5th. Recognition may be received as many years as criteria are met. Criteria may be accumulated over multiple years as a Junior Member or met within a single year.

Name: _____ 4-H Club: _____

Complete 10 of 11	1st Yr.	2nd Yr.	3rd Yr.
Completed at least one project			
Gave a report to a leader on project			
Gave a demonstration or talk on or exhibited the project			
Attended 2/3 of regular club meetings			
Brought parents to 50% of regular club meetings			
Served on a committee or as an Elected Officer			
Helped with a Community Service project			
Participated in County Round Up or another County Contest			
Turned in a Complete Record Book (does not have to be judged)			
Participated in a County Level activity that is not a contest			

4-H Member Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Club Manager Name



4-H All-Star Award

Available to any Intermediate Members, grades 6th-8th. Recognition may be received as many years as criteria are met. Criteria may be accumulated over multiple years as an Intermediate member or met within a single year.

Name: _____ 4-H Club: _____

Complete 15 of 16	1st Yr.	2nd Yr.	3rd Yr.
Completed at least two (2) projects			
Gave a demonstration or talk on or exhibited two (2) projects			
Attended 2/3 of regular club meetings			
Brought parents to 50% of regular club meetings			
Served on a committee or as an Elected Officer			
Participated in a Community Service project			
Participated in a 4-H Promotional Activity			
Recruited one or more new members			
Participated in County Round Up or another County Contest			
Participated in two (2) County Level activities that aren't contests			
Assisted with a County-Wide activity			
Turned in a Complete Record Book (does not have to be judged)			
Represented Brazos County at a District or State Level event			
Participated in a school or community activity			
Assisted with two (2) project groups or club activities			

4-H Member Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Club Manager Name



4-H Letterman Award

Available to any Senior Members, grades 9th-12th. Recognition may be received as many years as criteria are met. Criteria may be accumulated over multiple years as a Senior member or met within a single year.

Name: _____ 4-H Club: _____

Complete 16 of 19	1st Yr.	2nd Yr.	3rd Yr.	4th Yr.
Completed at least three (3) projects				
Attended 2/3 of regular club meetings				
Junior Leader or Teen Leader				
Chairman of a committee or Elected Officer				
Attended County Council Meetings				
Assisted in conducting a county activity or program				
Training or presentation to a project group				
Organized a community service project				
Participated in a District or State Leadership Training				
Provided County Level program or training				
Promoted 4-H to Mass Media (tv, radio, social media, newspaper, etc)				
Participated in County Round Up or a County Contest				
Provided District or State Level programs or training				
Competed in District or State Level 4-H Contest				
Participated in a National event or activity				
Promoted 4-H to other groups				
Served in a Leadership position in a group outside 4-H				
Researched career opportunities				
Turned in a Complete Record Book (does not have to be judged)				

4-H Member Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Club Manager Name



Bronze Star Award

Criteria for Consideration-

1. The Bronze Star Award will be presented to up to three (3) outstanding Junior 4-H Members, grades 3rd-5th. A member may receive the Bronze Star Award only once.
2. Applicants must have completed at least one (1) year of 4-H membership.
3. Award Candidates must have submitted a 4-H Record Book for the year they are to be considered for the Bronze Star Award.
4. Applicants must have attended 50% of their club meetings.
5. Applicants must have completed two (2) different project areas during their 4-H career.
6. 4-H member must have participated in activities in the areas of Community Service and Leadership.
7. A member may receive the Bronze Star Award only once.

Judging Procedure-

1. A check of the award eligibility & required application materials according to the "Criteria for Consideration" listed above.
2. Evaluation of an anonymized application by one panel of judges.
3. Grading of Section I-IV of the submitted, anonymized Record Book by a different panel of judges.
4. Interview with a third panel of judges.
5. Selection of award recipients will be based on the accumulation of the quantitative scores from each of the steps in the judging process, based on the following scoring criteria, with assigned point values.

Application Piece	Content Grading Focus	Point Value
Application	- Experiences - Lessons - Application of Lessons - Grammar & Spelling	50
Record Book Sections I-IV	- Involvement comparative to peers - Project Diversity, Growth, & Participation - Goals - Leadership - Community Service	50
Interview	- Personal Engagement - Passion for projects & experiences - Familiarity with the program & commitment to its growth - Professionalism & Communication	100



Bronze Star Award Application

(Application must be no longer than 2 pages)

Name: _____

Club: _____ Age: _____

1. Number of Years in 4-H:	
2. Projects Completed:	
3. What projects have you enjoyed the most & why?	
4. What are the most valuable lessons you have learned from being in 4-H?	
5. What are your future plans in 4-H?	

4-H Member Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Club Manager Name



Silver Star Award

Criteria for Consideration-

1. The Silver Star Award will be presented to up to three (3) outstanding Intermediate 4-H Members, grades 6th-8th. A member may receive the Silver Star Award only once.
2. Applicants must have completed at least two (2) years of 4-H membership.
3. Award Candidates must have submitted a 4-H Record Book for the year they are to be considered for the Silver Star Award.
4. Applicants must have attended 50% of their club meetings.
5. Applicants must have completed three (3) different project areas during their 4-H career.
6. 4-H member must have participated in activities in the areas of Community Service and Leadership.
7. A member may receive the Silver Star Award only once.

Judging Procedure-

1. A check of the award eligibility & required application materials according to the "Criteria for Consideration" listed above.
2. Evaluation of an anonymized application by one panel of judges.
3. Grading of Section I-IV of the submitted, anonymized Record Book by a different panel of judges.
4. Interview with a third panel of judges.
5. Selection of award recipients will be based on the accumulation of the quantitative scores from each of the steps in the judging process, based on the following scoring criteria, with assigned point values.

Application Piece	Content Grading Focus	Point Value
Application	- Experiences - Lessons - Application of Lessons - Grammar & Spelling	50
Record Book Sections I-IV	- Involvement comparative to peers - Project Diversity, Growth, & Participation - Goals - Leadership - Community Service	50
Interview	- Personal Engagement - Passion for projects & experiences - Familiarity with the program & commitment to its growth - Professionalism & Communication	100



Silver Star Award Application

(Application must be no longer than 3 pages)

Name: _____

Club: _____ Age: _____

1. Number of Years in 4-H:	
2. List the 4-H Projects you have completed:	
3. Which project(s) have had the biggest impact on you, and why?	
4. Describe a specific 4-H experience that challenged you. How did you overcome it?	
5. What are the most important lessons you have learned through 4-H so far?	
6. Give an example of how you have applied a lesson from 4-H to your everyday life (at school, at home, or in your community).	
7. How have you helped or mentored younger 4-H members?	
8. What goals have you set for yourself in 4-H moving forward?	

4-H Member Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Club Manager Name



Gold Star & Danforth “I Dare You” Awards

The Gold Star Award

The Gold Star is the most sought after 4-H awards at the county and state level. It is awarded each year to outstanding senior 4-H members in Brazos County. Any 4-H member not meeting the minimum criteria will not be considered for the award.

Each county 4-H Program is provided with a quota annually of the number of Gold Star Awards that can be awarded. These quotas are determined based on the total number of members enrolled in the county program in grades 10th to Post High School during the previous (2024-2025) 4-H year. Based on last year’s Senior membership Brazos County will award up to three (3) Gold Star Awards.

Danforth - I Dare you Award:

William H. Danforth's *I Dare You* was first published in 1931. It is still considered one of the most influential books in the general area of personal motivation. The award is offered in recognition of excellence in character and well-balanced personal development as well as demonstrated leadership. A copy of the book and a personalized certificate suitable for framing comprise the tangible parts of the award. Brazos County will give equal number of Danforth awards as the state determined quantity of Gold Stars to deserving Senior age 4-H Members (9th-12th Grade of the most recent 4-H year). This year, Brazos County will award up to three (3) Danforth Awards.

Criteria for Consideration-

1. The Gold Star Award will be presented to up to three (3) outstanding Senior 4-H Members, grades 9th-12th. A member may receive the Gold Star Award only once.
2. The Danforth “I Dare You” Award will be presented to up to three (3) outstanding Senior 4-H Members, grades 9th-12th. A member may receive the Danforth Award only once.
3. Applicants must have completed at least three (3) years of 4-H membership.
4. Award Candidates must have submitted a 4-H Record Book for the year they are to be considered for the Gold Star or the Danforth Award.
5. Applicants must have attended 50% of their club meetings.
6. A member may receive the Gold Star and Danforth Awards only once each.



7. Applicants must have

- a. Completed three (3) different project areas during their 4-H career.
- b. Participated in one or more activities in at least 3 of the following areas:

Method Demonstration/4-H Presentation Contests Project Exhibits Camps
State/ National Leadership or Programs Citizenship Activities Public Relations Leadership Labs

- c. During their time in 4-H, the applicant must have exhibited leadership skills in one or more of the following areas:

- i. Must have served as an officer or committee chairman at any level of 4-H organization (club, county, district, state)
- ii. Must have served as a Junior or Teen Leader in an activity or project with, or under the supervision of an adult volunteer leader.

- d. The applicant must have participated in one or more community service activities.

For example:

- i. Working or counseling with Junior 4-H members.
- ii. Community service projects, either individual, group or club-type projects.
- iii. Must have motivated other 4-H members through participation in demonstrations, projects, and/or exhibits.

Judging Procedure-

1. A check of the award eligibility & required application materials according to the "Criteria for Consideration" listed above.
2. Evaluation of an anonymized application by one panel of judges.
3. Grading of Section I-IV of the submitted, anonymized Record Book by a different panel of judges.
4. Interview with a third panel of judges.
5. Selection of award recipients will be based on the accumulation of the quantitative scores from each of the steps in the judging process, based on the following scoring criteria, with assigned point values.

Application Piece	Content Grading Focus	Point Value
Application	- Experiences - Lessons - Application of Lessons - Grammar & Spelling	50
Record Book Sections I-IV	- Involvement comparative to peers - Project Diversity, Growth, & Participation - Goals - Leadership - Community Service	50
Interview	- Personal Engagement - Passion for projects & experiences - Familiarity with the program & commitment to its growth - Professionalism & Communication	100



Gold Star & Danforth “I Dare You” Award Application

(Application must be no longer than 4 pages)

Name: _____

Club: _____ Age: _____

☐ GOLD STAR

☐ DANFORTH “I DARE YOU”

1. Number of Years in 4-H:	
2. What has kept you involved in 4-H?	
3. List & briefly describe your main 4-H projects:	
4. Which 4-H project or experience has shaped your personal development the most? Explain.	
5. List & describe your leadership roles.	
6. What challenges have you faced during your 4-H career, and how have you grown from them?	
7. How have you used your 4-H skills to serve your community or impact others?	
8. In what ways have you mentored or inspired younger 4-H members?	
9. How has 4-H influenced your values, character, and long-term goals?	
10. What are your future plans after high school, and how will you continue to live out the 4-H motto “To Make the Best Better”?	

4-H Member Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Club Manager Name



Star Award Application Rubric

	Score
Experiences: Clearly describes meaningful involvement or participation in activities. Demonstrates depth, variety, and relevance of experiences,	/20
Lessons Learned: Thoughtful reflection on personal growth or key takeaways. Shows insight and awareness of how experiences influenced them.	/15
Application of Lessons: Demonstrates how lessons have been or will be applied in real life. Shows thoughtful connection between learning and action.	/10
Grammar & Spelling: Writing is mostly free of grammar/spelling errors. Errors do not distract from meaning or clarity.	/5
TOTAL	/50

Additional Comments:



Project Area Awards

A 4-H member is eligible for any award if the project is included in their 4-H Record Book. A member may apply for all awards for which they are eligible. Project Area Awards for outstanding achievement are awarded based on that year's available Record Book categories, with the addition of a Community Service Award & the separation of the Shooting Sports disciplines into Archery & Shotgun. The following areas will have a Special County Award opportunity:

Animal Agriculture	Food & Nutrition	Public Speaking
Archery	Gardening & Horticulture	Rabbit
Beef	Goat	Range Science & Agronomy
Citizenship	Health & Personal Safety	Robotics (STEM)
Community Service	Horse	Sheep
Consumer Education	Leadership	Shotgun
Dog	Natural Resource	Swine
Entomology	Photography	Vet Science
Fashion & Interior Design	Poultry	Visual & Performance Arts

Requirements-

1. As of the current 4-H year (September 2025-August 2026), applicants must be in grades 6th through 12th and completed 3 years of 4-H membership, including this year.
2. Must be active in that project area for at least two consecutive years- this year (2025-2026) & the previous year (2024-2025).
 - a. The project does not have to be the main project of the member's Record Book, but the project **MUST** be listed in either **Section I or IV** of the Record Book.
3. Members may apply for more than one Project Area Award but can receive just one Project Area Award in a year.
4. Each award may be received only one time.

Judging & Evaluation Procedure-

1. Anonymized Project Award Applications will be reviewed by a panel of judges.
2. Award consideration will be based on the following four criteria:
 - a. Project Learning Experiences
 - b. Achievements & Recognitions related to the project area
 - c. Leadership within the project
 - d. Community Service within the project
3. Applicants will have one (1) page per project to cover any content they deem relevant for award consideration.
 - a. The page will be sectioned into Project Learning, Leadership, Service & Achievements.
 - b. Project Learning Experiences include but are not limited to clinics, meetings, workshops, tours, livestock shows, etc.
 - c. Leadership includes teaching, assisting, planning project activities, etc. within a project.
 - d. Service includes voluntary work done by individuals or groups to benefit others or improve their community
 - e. Achievements & Recognition include placings at shows, revenues, titles, etc. related to the project.

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



Project Area Awards Application Cover Page

Name: _____ Age: _____

Club: _____ Years in 4-H: _____

Each Project Area Award can be received only once. Knowing this, I would like to be considered for the following Project Area Awards. If you have already received any of these awards, **please write the year** to indicate the year the award was won.

PROJECT AREA AWARDS	APPLYING FOR	YEAR RECEIVED
Animal Agriculture		
Archery		
Beef		
Citizenship		
Community Service		
Consumer Education		
Dog		
Entomology		
Fashion & Interior Design		
Food & Nutrition		
Gardening & Horticulture		
Goat		
Health & Personal Safety		
Horse		
Leadership		
Natural Resource		
Photography		
Poultry		
Public Speaking		
Rabbit		
Range Science & Agronomy		
Robotics (STEM)		
Sheep		
Shotgun		
Swine		
Vet Science		
Visual & Performance Arts		

I have read & understand the rules for applying for Special County Awards and met all requirements

_____
4-H Member Signature_____
Parent Signature**Project Area Awards Application***Complete one form per Project Area Award. **LIMIT ONE PAGE PER PROJECT AREA.** Rows can be added or deleted.*

Name: _____

Project for Consideration: _____

Project Learning Experiences			
Month/Year	Activity	Description	

Achievements			
Month/Year	Level (Club, County, District, State, National, International)	Recognition	Importance to You

Top Leadership within the Project				
Month/Year	Leadership Activity	Role (facilitator, volunteer, appointed)	Level (County, District, State, National, International)	Responsibilities, Duties

Top Service within the Project Area			
Month/Year	Service Activity	Role (Yourself, Member of Group, Primary Leader)	Importance & Impact

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