

South Texas Agricultural Roundup

2020

Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

Scholarship Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the STAR Scholarship, the applicant must...

1. Be a current Hidalgo County 4-H or FFA member.
2. Have been a member of 4-H or FFA as reflected below for two of the past four years including the current year.
3. Attend public school, private school, or be home-schooled in Hidalgo County.
4. Be a graduating senior.
5. Be a current resident of Hidalgo County.
6. Must exhibit their project at STAR as follows:
 1. Submit entries by STAR deadline and bring project to the show for exhibition in 2020 show.
 2. Sifted projects meet the exhibition requirements of this application.
 3. Must have exhibited three years, including the 2020 show.

Scholarship Guidelines

Scholarship applications will be accepted, evaluated, and awarded based on the following guidelines:

1. Completed scholarship applications are due November 25, 2019 by 5:00 p.m. to the scholarship committee chair (Nelda Barrera 956-279-7956).
2. The scholarship committee will evaluate all applicants that meet all the eligibility requirements and have completed applications. Incomplete applications will not be accepted or reviewed. A complete application includes: 1) completed Application Certification form with all required signatures; 2) completed and signed Cover Letter; and 3) completed Application Form.
3. Applicants will be contacted and must attend the interview to continue to be considered for a scholarship. Interviews will be conducted on December 15, 2019. This date is subject to change. Conflicts in scheduled interview times should be resolved no later than the day before the interview.

4. Scholarship applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

a) Cover Letter	10 pts
b) Academics	5 pts
c) Project Experiences	20 pts
d) STAR Involvement	15 pts
e) Leadership	8 pts
f) Community Service	8 pts
g) Honors/Awards	10 pts
h) Other Activities	4 pts
i) Interview	20 pts
Total	100 pts

5. Evaluation of items above will be based on the Application Guidelines distributed with the application.
6. Recipients will have one year to redeem their scholarship award based on the date the recipients are selected/announced. The recipient is responsible for initiating the process of redeeming their award.
7. Award recipient must sign and return by March 1, 2020 the Scholarship Acceptance Agreement provided at the time of the announcement/award. See the agreement for details.
8. Award will be paid directly to the recipient after **census date** upon submission of official record of enrollment in postsecondary education that includes:
 - a. Courses taken after High School graduation
 - b. Proof of enrollment must include all of the following information in the same document to serve as valid proof: 1) student name; 2) college/university; 3) semester date; and 4) evidence of registration in class(es). Proof of enrollment can include: a class schedule, a student invoice, a grade report, or a transcript. Contact the committee chair with questions.

2020 Scholarship Application Guidelines

1. Complete all parts of the application before submitting for consideration.
2. Do not add space to specific sections of the application. Use only the space provided
3. Margins should remain at 1 inch and use no smaller than a 10-point font.
4. All applications should be typed or completed using a computer/printer.
5. Do not place application in a folder, binder, cover, sheet protectors, etc. Assemble the application by stapling all the documents in the following order:
 - i. Application Certification
 - ii. Cover Letter
 - iii. Application Form

Transcripts are not required

6. Each section of the application will be evaluated using the following descriptions. Use the descriptions to complete the various sections of the application:
 - a. Cover Letter (10 pts) – This should be on a separate sheet of standard paper (no business letterhead) and should reflect your personal experiences, your interest in pursuing higher education, and your career interests. You should also describe how you have prepared yourself to understand the degree and career choices you have selected. You may share anything that is not

asked as part of the application. The letter should be no more than one page (front only).

b. Academics (5 pts) – Provide a signed verification of the most recent GPA based on 100 point scale. This should be signed by a school official with specific authorization to determine and report.

c. Project Experiences (20 pts) – This section should reflect the years involved, knowledge and skills gained, the scope of your project, why these projects were important, and what impact they have had on you. The emphasis should be on quality of your experiences.

d. STAR Involvement (15 pts) – This section should reflect participation and involvement in previous years' shows. This includes exhibiting projects and volunteering at the show. Describe the extent of participation, placing, number of projects, etc. Volunteer work should also be described in detail.

e. Leadership (8 pts) – This section should reflect major leadership roles to include elected/appointed leadership as well as volunteer leadership. Emphasis should be placed on why these activities are important and what impact your involvement had on these activities and other people.

f. Community Service (8 pts) – This section should reflect community service activities, your level of involvement, and the impact that your involvement had on the activities and other people. Emphasis should be on quality rather than quantity.

g. Honors/Awards (10 pts) – Emphasis should be on the most important honors and awards that have been received and why those awards are the most important. This section should also reflect how these awards have helped your personal development.

h. Other Activities (4 pts) – This section should reflect your involvement in other activities outside of 4-H and/or FFA and why those activities were important to you. This might include other school, community, or church groups.

i. Interview (20 pts) – The interview will focus on your ability to communicate with others. In addition, it will be used to learn more about your experiences, your interests, and your future plans and goals.

Sample Cover Letter

Applicant Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone
Email address

Date

STAR Scholarship Committee

c/o Scholarship Committee

Address: P.O. Box 1939

Edinburg, TX 78540

Dear Committee:

Sample Cover Letter

Sincerely,

<Applicant signature here>