

Shining STAR Rules & Guidelines

Scrapbook Drop-off Deadline:

Dec. 2, 2025 by 5 p.m. to the Hidalgo County Extension Office

****NOTE: You Must Have Submitted your STAR Scholarship Online by the Deadline (11/23/25) to be Eligible****

Complete the Shining STAR application online at gostar.org.

- All candidates must attend high school and be considered a senior expecting to graduate in May or June of 2026.
- All candidates must be 17-19 years of age by Nov. 23, 2026.
- All candidates must be participating in a FFA or 4-H Club within Hidalgo County, have shown at STAR at least 2 years prior to Senior Year and also must submit entry and bring project to show for exhibition during Senior Year.
- Candidates may not be married, previously married, or have children and remain so throughout the show.
- A scholarship will be awarded to the candidate with the highest accumulated points.
- Awards will be paid in accordance with the STAR Scholarship Program rules and guidelines.
- The contest will consist of an interview (approximately 10-15 minutes), introduction to audience, two essays, and scrapbook.
- Each contestant is required to prepare a scrapbook that details personal biographical information, school activities, leadership and community service.
- In addition to the scrapbook, each contestant must complete the STAR Scholarship Application.
- Attire will consist of blue jeans, a western shirt and boots.
- All contestants must follow all STAR rules. Candidates will, at no time, drink alcoholic beverages, smoke in public, or knowingly participate in any illegal activity or detrimental behavior during any STAR event. Failure to follow these rules will result in forfeiture of any awards or scholarships.

Important Dates

- STAR Scholarship Online Application Deadline: Nov. 23, 2025 by 11:59 p.m.
- Shining STAR Scrapbook Deadline: Dec 2, 2025; Turn in Scrapbook to Luz at the Hidalgo County 4-H Extension Office by 5 p.m.
- Interview Date: Dec. 14, 2025 at 1 PM at the Greater State Bank McAllen Location at 3300 N 10th St, McAllen, TX 78501.

Please contact Laura Guerra Ramirez at (956) 451-6931 with any questions.