# South Texas Agricultural Roundup
# TBA
# 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:
    a. Submit entries by STAR deadline and bring project to the show for exhibition in 2027 show.
    b. Sifted projects meet the exhibition requirements of this application.
    c. Must have exhibited three years, including the 2027 show.

## Scholarship Guidelines

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

1. Completed scholarship applications are due Nov. 22, 2026 by 11:59 p.m. Complete the online application at gostar.org.
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:
    a. Completed application certification form with all required signatures;
    b. Completed and signed cover letter; and
    c. 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 Dec. 13, 2026 at 1 PM at the Hidalgo County Extension Office. This date is subject to change. Conflicts in scheduled interview times should be resolved no later than the day before the interview.

4. Evaluation of items above will be based on the Application Guidelines distributed with the application.
5. 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.
6. Award recipient must complete the STAR Scholarship Redemption Form online at gostar.org by March 1, 2028. Award check will be written directly to the applicant upon completion of the online redemption form and submission of official record of enrollment in post-secondary education that includes: technical school, vocational school and/or college or university. Applicants are also required to submit a handwritten or typed "thank you" note to the STAR Scholarship Committee, address: P.O. Box 1939, Edinburg, TX 78540. Thank you note must be received before check is mailed.
7. Scholarship applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
    a. Cover Letter (see example on last page of this document) - 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**

## 2027 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. ***Answers should be no longer than 1 typed page. If more than 1 typed page is submitted, only the first page will be read.*** Questions may be completed in paragraph, table or diagram format.
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. 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:
7. **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).

8. **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.
9. **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.
10. **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.
11. **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.
12. **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.
13. **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.
14. **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.
15. **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:

Sincerely,
<Applicant signature here>