

## South Texas Agricultural Roundup 2012 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 and bring project to the show for exhibition in the current year. Sifted projects meet the exhibition requirements of this application.
  - b. Must have exhibited three years, including the current year.

### Scholarship Guidelines

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

1. Completed scholarship **applications are due December 22, 2011 by 6:00 p.m.** to the scholarship committee chair (Luis Saldana 956-279-3346).
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.
3. Applicants will be contacted and must attend the interview to continue to be considered for a scholarship. Interviews will be conducted on **January 15, 2012**. 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
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	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. The recipient is responsible for initiating the process of redeeming their award.
7. Award will be paid directly to the recipient upon submission of any official record of enrollment in post-secondary education that includes:
  - a. Concurrent enrollment at the time the scholarship is awarded
  - b. Enrollment anytime after the scholarship is awarded as per #6 above.
  - c. Proof of enrollment (class schedule, invoice, grade report, transcript)

## 2012 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 the Application Certification, Cover Letter, and Application Form together.
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.