2026 – 2027
Washington County 4-H
Awards & Recognition Guide

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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services – Washington County
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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.

General Information & Important Dates

Enclosed in this packet are the Awards and Recognition opportunities for youth and adults. These awards will be presented at the annual Washington County 4-H Family Night.

Please contact the Washington County Extension Office if you have any questions.

Important Dates:

❖ Tuesday, March 30, 2027	Senior Graduation Cord orders due (online)
❖ Wednesday, April 14, 2027	Senior Spotlight forms due (online)
❖ Thursday, April 29, 2027	Family Night Award Nominations due (online)
❖ Tuesday, June 1, 2027	4-H Award Applications due to Extension Office
❖ Tuesday, June 1, 2027	4-H County Record Books due to Extension Office
❖ Monday, June 21, 2027	District Winner Jacket & Buckle orders due (online)
❖ Monday, June 28, 2027	4-H Award Interviews at the Extension Office
❖ Thursday, July 8, 2027	District Record Book Judging
❖ Friday, July 16, 2027	Honor Roll, All Star, Letterman Awards due to Extension Office
❖ Friday, July 23, 2027	4-H Family Night Member Profile due (online)
❖ Friday, August 6, 2027	Washington County 4-H Family Night

All dates are set by the Washington County Extension Office and are subject to change under the direction of the Extension Office if deemed necessary.

Important Websites:

- ❖ Washington County Extension Office: https://washington.agrilife.org
- ❖ D11 Record Book Judging Information: https://d114-h.tamu.edu/events-and-contests/d11-recordbooks/
- ❖ Texas 4-H Recordbook Resources Page: https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/recordbooks/

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Award Information and Details
Application Based Awards

Awards Available by Division – Application Only: (No interview or record book required)

Junior Division	Intermediate Division	Senior Division
Grades 3-5	*Grades 6-8*	*Grades 9-12*
Awards Opportunity: ❖ 4-H Honor Roll	Awards Opportunity: ❖ 4-H All Star	Awards Opportunity: ❖ 4-H Letterman

Application Access & Submission Options:

- ❖ All Award Applications are available online at http://washington.agrilife.org
- ❖ Download, complete, and submit the application in person to the Extension Office.

Awards Available by Division – Application Only
General Criteria
Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Divisions

This criteria-based awards program has been designed to provide more recognition to 4-H'ers that are not based on competition, but rather on accomplishment. The criteria-based awards system allows 4- H members to work towards earning awards that will build their self-confidence. The awards system will also strengthen local units because 4-H members will stretch themselves to achieve criteria necessary to receive these non-competitive awards.

Individual award applications are available for each of the three criteria-based awards. The major responsibility of recording the accomplishment of the individual criteria will be the 4-H members. Club managers and project group leaders are asked to assist in verifying the 4-H member's accomplishments.

Criteria-based awards available to members include:

- ❖ **Junior 4-H Honor Roll:**
  Available to junior members from third grade to fifth grade. May be received as many years as criteria is completed or criteria may be accumulated over the years as a junior member.

- ❖ **Intermediate 4-H All Star Award**:
  Available to intermediate members from sixth to eighth grade. May be received as many years as criteria is completed or criteria may be accumulated over the years as an intermediate member.

- ❖ **Senior 4-H Letterman Award**:
  Available to senior members in ninth through twelfth grade. May be received as many years as criteria is completed or criteria may be accumulated over the years as a senior member.

Members will receive a certificate and recognition at the annual Washington County 4-H Family Night.

Award Information and Details
Awards Requiring Interviews and Record Book

Awards Available by Division – Requiring an Interview and Record Book:

Please note – ALL Awards listed in this section **REQUIRE** an Interview & Record Book

Junior Division	Intermediate Division	Senior Division
Grades 3-5	*Grades 6-8*	*Grades 9-12*
Awards Eligible: ❖ Outstanding Rookie Award ❖ 4-H Bronze Star Award	Awards Eligible: ❖ 4-H Rising Star Award ❖ 4-H Silver Star Award	Awards Eligible: ❖ Work Horse Award ❖ I Dare You Award ❖ 4-H Gold Star Award

4-H Award Application Instructions:

- ❖ Read through the Awards & Recognition Guide to determine eligibility for awards offered.
- ❖ Complete the application for the award(s) the 4-H member qualifies to apply for.
- ❖ Submit the award application online or in person at the Washington County Extension Office.
- ❖ Complete and submit your 4-H Record Book to the Washington County Extension Office.
- ❖ Sign up for an interview time through the online sign up process.

Interview Requirements

- ❖ Interviews are required for all awards in each of the age divisions listed above.

Application Access & Submission Options:

- ❖ All Award Applications are available online at https://washington.agrilife.org/
- ❖ Download, complete, and submit the application in person to the Extension Office.

Selection Criteria:

Applicants must meet the following minimum criteria so the quality of the award can be maintained. The following criteria are recommended as minimum only. The selection committee may choose not to award an award if 4-H members in the county do not meet the minimum criteria.

- ❖ 4-H member must be an actively enrolled 4-H member in the respective age division for the current 4-H year.
- ❖ 4-H member must submit a Record Book for county competition in the year the 4-H member is to be considered for an award.
- ❖ An application for the award must be completed and returned to the Extension Office by the published deadline. No exceptions will be permitted.
- ❖ All applicants will be interviewed by a panel of judges.
  - The interviews will be conducted on a date and in a place to be announced in the 4-H Newsletter. No makeup interviews will be permitted. A pre-recorded interview may be considered if extenuating circumstances exist. The award applicant must communicate with the Extension Office and make their request in advance. No request will be considered without notification being received prior to the set interview date.
- ❖ Recipients will receive recognition at the Washington County 4-H Awards Banquet.

Awards Available by Division – Requiring an Interview and Record Book
General Criteria
Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Divisions

Junior Division (3rd – 5th Grade)

Outstanding Rookie Award Guidelines
This award will be given to the most outstanding first year Junior 4-H member. This award can only be won one (1) time. A maximum of one (1) will be given out in the county per year. Judging will be done by the Interview Committee based on the record book submitted, application form and interview.

4-H Bronze Star Award Guidelines
The Bronze Star Award is the most prestigious of all the Junior Awards. Only Junior members (3rd grade through 5th grade) are eligible to apply for this award. A 4-H member can win the Bronze Star Award only once as a Junior. 4-H members are required to submit a record book and award application to be eligible. A maximum of three (3) will be given out in the county per year. Interviews will be conducted by an Interview Committee who will have the final determination to the number of award winners per category based on the qualification of applicants.

Awards must be won in the following order:
1. Outstanding Rookie Award
2. 4-H Bronze Star Award

*A 4-H member may not win the Outstanding Rookie Award once they have won the 4-H Bronze Star Award.
*A 4-H member does not have to win the Outstanding Rookie Award to be eligible to win the 4-H Bronze Star Award.

Intermediate Division (6th – 8th Grade)

4-H Rising Star Award Guidelines
The Rising Star Award is given to an outstanding Intermediate 4-H member. Only Intermediate members (6th grade through 8th grade) are eligible to apply for this award. A 4-H member can win the Rising Star Award only one time as an Intermediate. 4-H members are required to submit a record book and award application to be eligible. A maximum of three (3) will be given out in the county per year. Interviews will be conducted by an Interview Committee who will have the final determination to the number of award winners per category based on the qualification of applicants.

4-H Silver Star Award Guidelines
The Silver Star Award is the most prestigious of all the Intermediate Awards. Only Intermediate members (6th grade through 8th grade) are eligible to apply for this award. A 4-H member can win the Silver Star Award only one time as an Intermediate. 4-H members are required to submit a record book and award application to be eligible. A maximum of three (3) will be given out in the county per year. Interviews will be conducted by an Interview Committee who will have the final determination to the number of award winners per category based on the qualification of applicants.

Awards must be won in the following order:
1. 4-H Rising Star Awards
2. 4-H Silver Star Award

*A 4-H member may not win the 4-H Rising Star Award once they have won the 4-H Silver Star Award.

Senior Division (9th – 12th Grade)

Work Horse Award Guidelines
The Work Horse Award is given to a Senior age member (9th grade through 12th grade) who has excelled in their 4-H work and shown the characteristics of determination, drive, and resilience. A maximum of three (3) will be given out in the county per year. Interviews will be conducted by an Interview Committee who will have the final determination to the number of award winners per category based on the qualification of applicants. A Senior 4-H member can win this award only one (1) time.

I Dare You Guidelines
The I Dare You Award is given to a Senior age member (9th grade through 12 grade) who has demonstrated excellence in character, well-balanced development, and demonstrated the characteristics of a servant leader. A maximum of three (3) will be given out in the county per year. The Interview Committee will have the final determination to the number of award winners per category based on the qualification of applicants. Selection will be based on completion of a 4-H record book and award application and judged by the Interview Committee. A Senior 4-H member can win this award only one (1) time.

4-H Gold Star Guidelines (Guidelines from Texas 4-H Website)
The Gold Star Award is the highest county achievement award and intended to be received only once in a member's 4-H career. The number of 4-H Gold Stars given is determined by the Texas 4-H Office. Counties have award quotas based on the number of Senior 4-H members. The award will be presented to the most deserving young people without regard to gender. The following requirements must be met:

- The member must have at least completed, or be completing their, 9th grade school year at the time of application, and must have completed at least 3 years in 4-H, including the current year.
- The Texas 4-H Gold Star Award can only be awarded once in a member's 4-H career.
- The 4-H member must submit a 4-H Record Book in the year he/she is to be considered for the award.
- The 4-H member must have completed projects in three different project areas, including submission of appropriate record forms, and have participated in one or more activities in at least three of the following areas:
  - Projects and/or Project Exhibits
  - Participation in Leadership Experiences such as Leadership Labs, Texas 4-H Congress, or National Leadership Events, and any county, district, or state leadership group.
  - Competitive Events (judging, educational presentation, public speaking, food show, etc.).
  - Citizenship activities
  - Camps at the county, district, or state level.
  - 4-H Promotion (speeches, poster displays, radio, TV, newspapers)
  - Other (includes exchange programs, fund raising)

  Note: The requirements for projects and activities do not all have to be completed in the current year. They may have been accomplished over the entire period of time the person has been in the program.

- Gold Star recipients will receive a $1000 scholarship sponsored by the Parent Association.

The number of 4-H Gold Stars awarded each year is determined by the State Office, based on the previous year's 4-H enrollment, however, the Interview Committee will have the final determination to the number of award winners per category based on the qualification of applicants.

Awards must be won in the following order:
1.Workhorse Award -or- I Dare You Award
2. 4-H Gold Star Award
*A 4-H member may not win the Work Horse Award or I Dare You Award once they have won the 4-H Gold Star Award. The Workhorse Award and I Dare You Award may be won in any order.

Washington County 4-H Jacket and Buckle Program

A special 4-H jacket or a buckle will be awarded to 4-H members who win first place in District or State competitive events, provided the contests are placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd.

This award will be purchased by the 4-H Parent Association and awarded at Family Night. **A 4-H member may be awarded only one (1) jacket or one (1) buckle in each age division (junior, intermediate, or senior).**

Parents may order an additional buckle or jacket any time a 4-H member **wins first place** in District or State competitive events, providing the contests are placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd. The award will need to be paid for in full before it is ordered and will need to be picked up at the Extension Office if not awarded at Family Night.

Members must fill out a form selecting the achievement they wish to be recognized for, and whether they want to receive a 4-H jacket or buckle.

Washington County 4-H State Banner Program

A special 4-H banner will be awarded to 4-H members who qualify for and compete at a State level 4-H event, provided the contests are placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd.

This award will be purchased by the 4-H Parent Association and awarded at Family Night.

4-H Graduation Cords and 4-H Stoles of Gratitude

Graduation from high school is a milestone in any youth's life. The Washington County 4-H Parent Association would like to mark the event by giving all active 4-H seniors **4-H Graduation Cords** to display all their hard work and dedication to the 4-H program. 4-H members who have served as a Washington County 4-H Council Officer during their senior years (9th – 12th grade) will be eligible to receive a **4-H Stole of Gratitude**.

Graduation Cords – All Active 4-H Seniors

Graduation Stole – County Council Officers Only

Members must contact the Washington County Extension Office and fill out a form to request their 4-H Graduation Cords and 4-H Stoles of Gratitude.

Community Awards

These awards are created to recognize outstanding members and business in the Washington County Community that have positively impacted the Washington County 4-H Program. These nominations are due in the County Extension Office on a date to be announced. Should no nominations be received, the County Council will make nominations at their meeting. The County Council will select the winners.

4-H Alumni Award:
This award is designed to recognize individuals who have completed successful 4-H careers and who have distinguished themselves in their service to others and have continued to help with the 4-H program. They are judged on their leadership contribution to the 4-H program.

Friend of 4-H Award:
This award is designed to recognize individuals who have contributed their time, money, and effort to the Washington County 4-H program. This award is not for adult leaders or employees of the County Extension Service.

Outstanding 4-H Family of the Year:
This award is designed to recognize a 4-H family who has contributed significantly to bettering the Washington County 4-H Program. Each of the family members must be actively involved in the 4-H program.

One award winner per category will be selected each year and will receive recognition at the annual Washington County 4-H Family Night Awards Banquet.