

*Texas 4-H
Annual Report
2022-2023*





TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



Cooperative Extension Program

TEXAS 4-H



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

2022 - 2023

407,075

youth participation



DEMOGRAPHICS

GENDER

49%

MALE



FEMALE

51%

GRADE

47%

K-3RD

35%

4TH-6TH

9%

7TH-8TH

9%

9TH-12TH

RACE

71%

WHITE

8%

AFRICAN AMERICAN

21%

OTHER

ETHNICITY

47%

HISPANIC

RESIDENCE

33%

FARM/RURAL

29%

CENTRAL CITY

20%

TOWN/ CITY

13%

URBAN/ SUBURBS



PROGRAM



139,086

AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK



55,976

FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH



40,088

LEADERSHIP & CITIZENSHIP



64,233

NATURAL RESOURCES



31,185

STEM



6,550

CLOVER KIDS

CLUB PARTICIPATION

50,090

COMMUNITY 4-H

2,484

IN-SCHOOL 4-H

2,935

AFTER-SCHOOL 4-H

1,673

MILITARY 4-H



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Dear Texas 4-H & Texas 4-H Supporters,

As 2023 comes to close, we find ourselves reflecting on the 2022-2023 4-H year with gratitude and pride. The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program and Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation saw great growth over the year in programs, support, and membership. Finishing the year with more than 407,000 members learning through a variety of educational opportunities and more than \$1.6 million contributed in support of 4-H youth and programs. Growing numbers is fabulous but even better is the personal growth and excellence in project work as shown in our many national champions or even one youth who took her experience global. New opportunities were created for our members like the Norman Borlaug Youth in Agriculture Program and the international educational experiences offered to youth through the various project leadership groups of Healthy Texas Youth, Photography Ambassadors, Livestock, Equine, and Poultry Ambassadors, and Global Citizenship youth. Volunteers once again gave of their time selflessly and we are proud to feature a few of those “difference makers”

in our Salute to Excellence recipients. The Clover Club for Texas 4-H Alumni continues to grow and excel, generating more than \$91,000 for 4-H youth and 4-H programs at the annual Clover Club Gala. The Foundation Development Districts held fundraisers across the state and will continue to serve their counties and districts in years to come. With a record \$2.9 million in scholarships given to members crossing the Roundup stage in June, 224 Texas 4-H scholars were set up for success thanks to our generous scholarship donors. While the numbers and events may vary and the youth involved will fluctuate from year-to-year, the basis of Texas 4-H will never change. Positive youth development through opportunity and education will always be the foundation of 4-H in Texas. We are proud to be part of the program changing lives every day and we hope this report provides a glimpse into the way in which that change happens. Should you be interested in learning more about getting involved in the program, giving to the Foundation, or learning more, please feel free to contact either one of us, or the program leads listed at the back of the magazine.



Dr. Montza Williams
Texas 4-H Youth Development
Program Director

Montza Williams



David White
Texas 4-H Youth Foundation
Executive Director

David White



SERVICE SACRIFICE STEADFASTNESS

Paris Sanchez:
A true 4-H youth success story.

4-H teaches youth how to be resilient, how to serve others, and how to prioritize and manage time, among other valuable life skills. Paris Sanchez, a Navarro County 4-H alumni, has embodied and lived out all she gained from the Texas 4-H program.

Now a freshman at Texas A&M University studying Agricultural Leadership and Development, Paris spent nine formative years in the 4-H program.



Young Paris with her show goats.



Paris with younger sister.

"I was in 4-H since I was in 4th grade, and I was very active," Sanchez said. "I've been part of many different types of activities and projects from food show to food challenge to consumer decision making, and I've also shown market goats."

Beginning her 4-H career as a "shy kid" who "didn't know what to do" ignited a fire in Sanchez to grow into the leader that would grab a new 4-H member by the hand and help them learn along the way.

"A lot of my goals that I'd set going into high school were just to be prepared to go into college and the real world, and to build myself as a leader. And I know 4-H has honestly really done a lot to help me there," Sanchez said. "Participating in events has taught me so many skills from cooking to communication skills, and all of that has really helped me become a better individual."

Sanchez grew into a leader with a heart for serving others. The daughter of a single mother of two, Sanchez explained that "finding a way to pay for things" wasn't always easy, but her resiliency prevailed. Because of her unique situation, Sanchez focused the majority of her time in 4-H on community service.

"Personally, I've been on both sides of community service, so I really understand a lot of our community needs," Sanchez said. "We've definitely faced our fair share of troubles. However, I've been taught where there's a will, there's a way."

While Sanchez's 4-H involvement is impressive enough on its own, add on a layer of thick FFA involvement.

“Both of these organizations offer a variety of different events,” Sanchez said. “I did all of my food events under 4-H and I showed through FFA. I’ve done Consumer Decision Making through 4-H, which FFA doesn’t have, and I’ve done Agricultural Advocacy through FFA, which 4-H doesn’t have.”

23-24 Texas FFA State Officers.

In her senior year, Sanchez doubled down on high level leadership in both organizations, serving as a District 4-H Council member and an Area FFA Officer. Currently, during her freshman year, she is serving as a Texas FFA State Officer, an honor bestowed amongst few, but respected by all.

“A rumor or misconception that goes around ends up being that you will eventually have to choose one. I was actually told this as well when I was in middle school that I would eventually have to choose one organization, and I ended up just pushing through and sticking with both,” Sanchez said. “I believe in the future of agriculture, and I want to make the best better.”

With hopes of obtaining a master’s degree to become a County Extension Agent and ultimately, District 4-H Specialist one day, Sanchez attributes her career plans to not only her time in the program, but the adult leaders who helped her along the way.



Paris wins State Food Show.



“I want to say thank you. I know my agents and my club manager, especially, have done so much to support me and my successes,” Sanchez said. “Her [the Dawson 4-H club manager] encouragement and will to help me grow has really been there over the years. I definitely think that without her support, I wouldn’t have made it as far as I have now.”

Even beyond the success, skills learned, and future career aspirations, Sanchez still finds her foundation in not only 4-H, but in life, in giving back to others like so many have done for her.

“I want to encourage everyone that when they see someone who needs help, and they have the ability to give a helping hand, to reach out and give that.” Sanchez. “That’s my personal philosophy that I live with as well.”

To give to the 4-H program and help youth like Paris Sanchez thrive, visit texas4hfoundation.org. To make a difference and learn about volunteering, visit texas4-h.tamu.edu.

Gazpacho Shooters with Grilled Chili Lime Shrimp

Paris Sanchez, Navarro County, District 8, Appetizer

Gazpacho

- 2 pounds fresh tomatoes, diced
- 1 medium sweet onion, cut into fourths
- 1 large bell pepper, deseeded and cut into large pieces
- 1 large cucumber, peeled and cut into large pieces
- 3 garlic cloves, smashed
- ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 2-3 T Worcestershire sauce
- ½ t cumin
- 1 t hot sauce
- Salt & pepper to taste

1. Add tomatoes, onion, pepper, cucumber, and garlic to a blender. Blend until well-blended, but not completely smooth & pureed. Add olive oil, vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, cumin, and hot sauce. Blend until well blended and the consistency you prefer. Chill for at least one hour or up to 3 days.

Grilled chili lime shrimp

- ½ lb of shrimp, peeled (medium to large size)
- 1 t smoked paprika
- ½ t chili powder
- 3 T lime juice, freshly squeezed
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- ¼ t salt
- ¼ t pepper
- 2 T olive oil

1. Combine all ingredients in a large bowl and thoroughly cover shrimp. Cover bowl and marinate for 15 minutes.

2. Turn the grill to high, preheat. Skewer the shrimp on a small skewer, 2 shrimp with a slice of lime between. Grill shrimp 2-3 minutes per side. When the shrimp turn an opaque pinkish color on both sides, they are done.

To serve:

1. Pour chilled gazpacho into a small glass.
2. Top with one skewer of shrimp.
3. These may be kept cool in a tray of ice for self-serve or served individually at the table.



4-H 4 MORE



SCAN TO
LEARN MORE.



The goal of 4-H 4 More is to increase membership in the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program. We want to open the door to opportunities for more youth by inviting in four more youth. Each 4-H member is encouraged to invite four friends to join 4-H. They are rewarded with incentives such as 4-H 4 More t-shirts, membership due refunds, backpacks and portfolios, and recognition on state scholarship applications.

388

New Members as of August 2023

To learn more about financially supporting the 4-H 4 More program or other ways to get involved, contact the event lead:

Callie Cline | callie.cline@ag.tamu.edu | 979-321-5286

TEXAS 4-H CONGRESS



SCAN TO
LEARN MORE



Texas 4-H Congress is a four-day mock legislative experience for senior level 4-H members where they assume the roles of legislators, lobbyists, and press corps to gain a first-hand understanding of how the legislative process works.

AUSTIN, TX
AT THE TEXAS CAPITOL

JULY 14-17
2024

To learn more about the event or partnering in the event, contact the event lead:
Megan Logan | megan.logan@ag.tamu.edu | 830-988-6146

Norman Borlaug Youth in Agriculture Program



The Norman Borlaug Youth in Agriculture Program (NBYAP) is an academic enrichment program for outstanding high school students from around Texas. The Texas Youth Livestock and Agriculture (TYLA) Program within the Texas 4-H Youth Development Unit, as part of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, is committed to advancing a community of promising youth leaders to confront complex challenges in agriculture.

The Why

Through the duration of the program, Texas 4-H faculty and Texas A&M University professors, among other industry professionals, supported students through a multi-faceted educational strategy, paired with instilling proven professional habits. In turn, program outcomes indicate positively impacting the trajectory of the next generation of leaders. Billy Zanolini, PhD, is the Texas 4-H Youth Agriculture and Livestock Specialist who leads the TYLA program.

“TYLA faculty and collaborating educators have observed measured gains in teamwork, collaboration, and understanding since we launched in November of 2022,” Dr. Zanolini said. “The cohort worked diligently on the ‘wicked problems’ of food insecurity, water insecurity, and land fragmentation for months.”

“The rural students were recruited from 4-H youth holding statewide leadership positions,” Dr. Zanolini said. “For the urban students, we formed crucial partnerships with Harris County school districts. Students completed a comprehensive application that was reviewed by the TYLA selection team.”

The Planting Season sessions included involvement from the Texas A&M University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, teambuilding at Texas A&M ChallengeWorks, immersive experiences at the TAMU Poultry Science Center, and other science-based activities. The exposure to a college campus and networking opportunities were additional benefits students found in this opportunity.



NBYAP participants with growing season sign.

The Planting Season

The first phase of the program, called “The Planting Season,” was held in College Station, Texas, in November 2022. Thirty-five students emerged from rural and urban backgrounds to create friendships centered around making a difference. Through a fast-paced and rigorous schedule, students were exposed to multiple aspects of the agriculture industry, such as ruminant nutrition, wheat planting, and more. The youth also participated in relationship forming activities.

The Growing Phase

The second phase, called “The Growing Season,” was held in Houston, Texas, March 3-5, 2023. Houston was selected as the pivotal location to expose students first-hand to an urban setting, where they were able to realize the challenges currently facing the agricultural industry and urban areas.

“The collaborative experience provided through the NBYAP has enabled urban and rural leaders to identify our common ground on major issues including food insecurity in Texas,” Amy Kaye Mathis, Rural Participant

from Kleberg County said. “We were tasked with the responsibility as advocates to find solutions as we worked together to educate consumers in a manner that changed the public perception of agriculture. This change had the potential to positively affect markets and legislation that will help to successfully feed our growing population.” In this unique part of the process, the youth dove into the world of gaming and created board games as a hands-on



NBYAP participants create problem-solving board game.

vessel for solving current agricultural issues. As a key supporter of the program, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo provided the ideal location for rich fun, unique education, and expedited growth.

The Harvest Season

The final phase, called “The Harvest Season,” was held in College Station, Texas, May 5-7, 2023, as the culmination of the program where students shared presentations and received their educational grants.

“Through the NBYAP Program, I have learned about serious issues Texas is facing,” Andrew Childress, Rural Participant from Henderson County said. “I have learned about common causes of food insecurity, the importance of supporting food banks, and the responsibility we all have to help others. From touring H-E-B warehouses, wheat fields, and poultry processing rooms, the impact that the program has had on me is astronomical.”

The “Wicked Problem” Capstone Presentations allowed the youth to share not only what they learned in the program, but what their plans are for solving the issues currently facing the agriculture industry.

“The “Harvest Season” showcased their work over through six months,” Dr. Zanolini said. “Teams drew on the new relationships and the trust built by experiences in the program. Student teams equally divided by rural and urban representatives proposed potential solutions to the identified wicked problems.”

In addition to the life-long friendships, experiences, and knowledge gained in the program, each participating youth was awarded a \$2,500 educational grant, thanks to many program sponsors.

Moving Forward

Throughout all phases of the program, the goal was to ignite the Norman Borlaug spirit in participants as they were exposed to the challenges that must be overcome.

“This program helped me understand the values of agriculture and its value in today’s world. Prior to being a part of this program, my understanding for ‘wicked problems’ in agriculture was little-to-nothing, and my knowledge on creating their solutions were nonexistent. But, with the help of this program, I now understand the problems in agriculture and I can act on these problems by creating solutions with the information provided by the program,” Tommy Morrison, Urban Participant from Houston ISD said. “Furthermore, this program has allowed me to put myself out there to a very diverse group of people and get out of my comfort zone.”



NBYAP participant at final presentations.

As the first year of the Norman Borlaug Youth in Agriculture Program comes to a close, it is evident that the youth of Texas selected to participate in this esteemed program are now aware of the challenges facing the state and are ready to find solutions. It also is just as evident that the connection between urban and rural youth is pertinent to finding those solutions. Creating relationships between those youth in this program set the foundation for the fence post of tomorrow in agriculture.

“We are committed to building better collaborations and relationships between urban and rural communities through a leadership experience,” Dr. Zanolini said. “Hard problems are better solved by leveraging the strength of differing backgrounds and perspectives. We truly believe agriculture connects all of us. The NBYAP is the only program of its kind.”

To learn more about the Texas 4-H Youth Livestock and Agriculture program, visit texasyouthlivestock.com. To give in support of the youth in the program, visit texas4hfoundation.org.



*Join us in Bryan/College Station for
Texas 4-H Roundup June 3-6, 2024*

JUNE 5-8, 2023 | DEFINE

YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

- Senior level (9th - 12th grade)
- More than 1,580 participants
- Youth gained self esteem, confidence, communication skills, public speaking skills, responsibility, and teamwork
- Youth were inspired to consider their personal, academic, and career goals

OPPORTUNITIES

- 50 diverse competitions ranging in topic
- Qualifying and invitational contests
- Educational workshops
- Community service events
- \$2.7 million in scholarships awarded



PURPOSE

- Designed to supplement county 4-H program in learning opportunities for “big 5 project areas.”
- Contests held at county, district, and state levels
- Committed to preparing youth to meet challenges throughout life through educational experiences that enhance life skills and competencies.

Thank you to our hosts!



DESTINATION
**BRYAN
TEXAS**

CULTURE AND FAMILY: A SOUTH KOREAN EXPERIENCE



Lea Weller

A States' 4-H International Exchange Program Story

From the Texas panhandle to South Korea, Lea Weller is a fashionista with a heart for service. The summer after Weller graduated high school and concluded her nine-year 4-H career, she leapt at the opportunity to participate in the States' 4-H International Outbound Program.

According to the States' 4-H International Exchange Program's website, "States' 4-H Summer Outbound programs provide American 4-H youth with the opportunity to travel to foreign countries for a cultural immersion experience. Outbound delegates live with volunteer host families and engage in experiential learning about a new way of life."

Weller spent the summer of 2023 in Donghae-Si in the Gangwon Providence, South Korea, on the East Coast on the Sea of Japan with the Yun Family.



Lea with her host family.

"I'm an outgoing and individualistic type of person, but I wanted more experiences, and more of an adult experience under my belt. I'd never traveled internationally before" Weller said. "I wanted to see a culture that was vibrant and different than my own and I wanted to learn how to navigate that on my own without my parents there. For me, it was a big step into growing into an adult."

Weller said her experience gave her a new perspective on life, teaching her about not only another "vibrant" culture, but about herself, as well. However, her favorite part of the experience was the bond built with her host family, despite language barriers.

"I found a new family," Weller said. "When I went, I didn't understand how much I would bond with them until I was there. It was awful how I felt when I was leaving, knowing I wouldn't see them for a couple of years at least."

One of Weller's biggest goals was to try new foods. Her host family made sure she felt truly immersed in the Korean culture, including culinary experiences like sea urchin served straight from the water to her mouth.

"Korea has such a rich culture, especially compared to where I live in the United States. I've never really had any ties to my family cultures of German or Czech," Weller said. "So, in a way, Korean feels like my adopted culture just because my host family was so willing to include me in everything and teach me about their culture."



Lea participating in a community cultural experience.

Weller's nine years of 4-H in mostly Community Service, Fashion and Interior Design, and Public Speaking prepared her more than she knew they would for this unique opportunity.

"Learning about people's diversity in 4-H helped me in this experience. Where I grew up in the panhandle, it's a very rural farming community without much diversity. Being in 4-H put me around other people with many differences," Weller said. "Something else that helped me was the communication skills I'd learned, and non-verbal communication skills like always smiling, keeping my body language open, and keeping an open mind."

Now at the University of North Texas studying Fashion Design, Weller continues to use what she learned during her time in the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program.



Lea enjoys one of many days in the ocean.

"I have a set plan in what I want to do," Weller said. "I want to be a creative director for a fashion brand. I want to be the creative mind behind the giant runway shows, maybe the fashion advertisements, anything in the fashion field that requires a creative mind, I want to do."

Weller took her fashion sense to Korea, leaving with new knowledge, new interests, and new appreciation for the vibrant colors of fashion in America.

"I learned just how much culture influences fashion," Weller said. "Because Korea has a very respectful culture, they typically dress more modestly, and they don't wear very bright colors because Korean people don't like to draw attention to themselves. I've been doing more research now on how culture influences fashion."

Weller enjoyed her experience abroad, and each summer, all 4-H youth have the same opportunity to experience "something new." To become involved in the program through traveling abroad, supporting the program financially, or hosting an international student through the Inbound Program, contact darlene.locke@ag.tamu.edu.

TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER

Texas 4-H Champions

Record Books.....

Animal Agriculture: Randall County, Kade Lawrence
Beef: Roberts County, Landry Dukes
Citizenship, Civic Education and Community Service: Potter County, Emily Schooler
Consumer Education: Comal County, Claire Schaeferkoeter
Dog Care & Training: Tarrant County, Renee Raschio
Entomology: Wilson County, Joshua Scribner
Fashion & Interior Design: Wharton County, Kasey Burns
Food & Nutrition: Lubbock County, Brynlee Edwards
Gardening & Horticulture: Lubbock County, Aaron Chaloupka
Goat: Gillespie County, Jace Raab
Health & Personal Safety: Comal County, Peyton Wirebaugh
Horse: Lubbock County, Madison Chaloupka
Leadership: Johnson County, Brandon White
Natural Resources: Matagorda County, Mark Kubecka
Photography: Johnson County, Mia Meehan
Plant & Soil Science: Johnson County, Kade Davis
Poultry: Montgomery County, Ella Porter
Public Speaking: Hopkins County, Rylie Carroll
Rabbit: Hale County, Hanna Bozeman
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM): Castro County, Spencer Acker
Sheep: Parker County, Emma Hauprich
Shooting Sports: Ellis County, Nemon McKenney
Swine: Waller County, Shyla Wells
Veterinary Science: Washington County, Matthew Phillips
Visual and Performance Arts: Lavaca County, Keely Knesek

Roundup.....

Ag Product ID Individual: Starr County – Kaylon Ramon
Ag Product ID Team: Starr County – Agueda Garza, Juan Rocha, Omar Mendoza, Kaylon Ramon
Ag Technology & Farm Safety Educational Presentation: Wise County – Jacie Pennington
Animal Science Educational Presentation: Grayson County – Camryn Craddock
Archery Barebow: Hood County – Maximus Davis
Archery Compound Aided: Callahan County – Logan Wrinkle
Archery Compound Unaided: Swisher – Landry Young
Archery NASP: Kaufman County – Jacob Crawford
Archery Recurve: Guadalupe County – John Walker Baker
Beef Educational Presentation: Gonzales County – Savay Sexton
Consumer Decision Making Individual: Bell County – Matthew Hampton
Consumer Decision Making Team: Milam County – Ryan Luckey, Jack Luckey, Robert Miller II, Klaybourne Eschberger
Duds to Dazzle Accessory Jewelry: Runnels County – Emma Harrison, Keni Drennan, Kendall Smith, Kyleigh Andrews, Emma Rutledge
Duds to Dazzle Non-Wearable: Collin County – Olivia Callagher, Avery Smith, June Smith

Duds to Dazzle Wearable: Hardeman County – Montana Woods, Millie Poole, Autumn Woods, Kenna Mae Horton

Duds to Dazzle Final Challenge: Hardeman County – Montana Woods, Millie Poole, Autumn Woods, Kenna Mae Horton

Entomology ID Individual: Wilson County – Luke Scribner

Entomology ID Team: Wilson County – Luke Scribner

Family Community Health Quiz Bowl Individual: Collin County – Audrey Rathgeb

Family Community Health Quiz Bowl Team: Collin County – Elizabeth Esposito, Olivia Callagher, Audrey Rathgeb, Lucie Rathgeb

Fashion Show Buying Business Interview Attire: Wise County – Jacie Pennington

Fashion Show Buying Fantastic Fashions Under \$25: Kendall County – Elizabeth McFarland

Fashion Show Buying Semi-Formal to Formal: Bandera County – Shye Havelka

Fashion Show Buying Special Interest: Hidalgo County, Gabriela Ramirez

Fashion Show Construction Everyday Living: Travis County, Kristen Early

Fashion Show Construction Re-Fashion: Wharton County, Kasey Burns

Fashion Show Construction Semi-Formal to Formal: Travis County, Emily Shaw

Fashion Show Construction Theatre Costume: Jefferson County, Maggie Landry

Fashion Show Cotton: Red River County – Sara Gibbs

Fashion Show Wool/Mohair/Alpaca: Lubbock County – Kyndra Messer

Food Challenge Final Challenge: Runnels County – Elyse Taubert, Cecelia Fritze, Payton Branham, Peyton Graves

Food Challenge Appetizer: Tom Green County – Ella Dupre, Rylee Barrett, Dakota Yarbrough, Rylie Hunt

Food Challenge Healthy Dessert: Starr County – Agueda Garza, Andres Cantu, Steven Perez, Alonzo Trevino

Food Challenge Main Dish: Runnels County – Elyse Taubert, Cecelia Fritze, Payton Branham, Peyton Graves

Food Challenge Side Dish: Bell County – Emily Anderson, Emma Canales, Abigail Marzo

Food Show Appetizer: Navarro County – Paris Sanchez

Food Show Healthy Dessert: Runnels County – Elyse Taubert

Food Show Main Dish: Scurry County – Anzlee Hale

Food Show Side Dish: Cameron County – Naomi Macmanus

Health and Wellness Educational Presentation: Parker County – Callie Stevens

Healthy Lifestyles Individual: Collin County – Lucie Rathgeb

Healthy Lifestyles Team: Runnels County – Elyse Taubert, Cecelia Fritze, Payton Branham, Peyton Graves

Hippology Individual: Collin County – Alexandria Hargraves

Hippology Team: Kendall County – Anna Haffelfinger, Madison Carr, Lily Valentine, Elizabeth McFarland

Horse Educational Presentation: Lubbock County – Madison Chaloupka

Horse Judging Individual: Kendall County – Elizabeth McFarland

Horse Judging Team: Kendall County – Anna Haffelfinger, Madison Carr, Elizabeth McFarland, Isabella Villarreal

Horse Quiz Bowl Individual: Comal County – Florence Rosenthal

Horse Quiz Bowl Team: Lubbock County – David Kendrick, Madison Chaloupka, Lana Brickey, Lauren Evans

Indoor Rifle Match Individual: Kendall County – Brenna Green

Indoor Rifle Match Team: Kendall County – Brenna Green, Meredith Stuart, Hannah Dufresne, Briley Sralla

Invitational Livestock Judging Individual: Bexar County – Brigitte Bettice

Invitational Livestock Judging Team: Comal County – Dylan Wunderlich, Rylee Wunderlich, Brenlea Broyles, Addison Engquist

Invitational Meat Judging and ID Individual: Bexar County – Brigitte Bettice

Invitational Meat Judging and ID Team: Bexar County – Brigitte Bettice, Dakota Pieniazek

Leaders 4 Life Skill-A-Thon: Guadalupe County – Grace Vogel, Ava Clark, Jackson Elley, Auburn Frost, Justyne Covarrubias, Kiara Du Preez

Livestock Quiz Bowl Individual: Austin County – Madilyn McCullough

Livestock Quiz Bowl Team: Randall County – Caroline Gleghorn, Sophie Bradshaw, Lathan Lewter, Cash Miller

Livestock Skill-A-Thon Individual: Runnels County – Kaelynn Hoelscher

Livestock Skill-A-Thon Team: Runnels County – Rylee Vahlenkamp, Kaelynn Hoelscher, Beth Kellermeier

Open Educational Presentation: Castro County – Spencer Acker, Harrison Meador

Open Ag and Natural Resources Educational Presentation: Runnels County – Kaelynn Hoelscher

Open Family and Community Health Educational Presentation: Wharton County – Riley Wallis

Photography Judging Individual: Kendall County – William Muck
 Photography Judging Team: Kendall County – William Muck, Aspen McCallum, Keona Ellis
 Poultry Judging Individual: Wilson County – Trent Ellebracht
 Poultry Judging Team: Wilson County – Trent Ellebracht, Michael Morgan, Nicole Lee, Cambree Simmonds
 Promote 4-H Educational Presentation: Bexar County – Jayden Ingalls, Brylee Meeks
 Public Speaking: Eastland County – Ryleigh Whitaker
 Qualifying Livestock Judging Individual: DeWitt County – Wyatt Luddeke
 Qualifying Livestock Judging Team: Bell County – Kaylee Eaton, Keeley Ham, Madeline Rakowitz, Jackson Bragg
 Qualifying Meat Judging and Identification Individual: Erath County – Shayla Mader
 Qualifying Meat Judging and Identification Team: Guadalupe County – Emily Chambers, Hunter Stevens, Ava Harboth, Alexis Guthrie
 Range & Pasture Grass ID Individual: Stephens County – Josiah Moreno
 Range & Pasture Grass ID Team: Milam County – Ryan Luckey, Jenna Lindig, Joseph Hollas, Jason Ponnaiya
 Range Evaluation Individual: Stephens County – Hannah Moreno
 Range Evaluation Team: Stephens County – Hannah Moreno, Kason Burchett, Isaac Tait, Aiden Boulevard
 Robotics Challenge: Brazos County – Sophia Criscione, Samuel Moravec, Mariana Riddle
 Safety and Injury Prevention Educational Presentation: Dallam County – Teresa McDaniel, Elli Bezner
 Science Fair: Tom Green County – Gracie Trees
 Soil Judging Individual: Hall County – Katelyn Morris
 Soil Judging Team: Comal County – Claire Schaeferkoeter, Dylan Wunderlich, Rylee Wunderlich, Brenlea Broyles
 Talent Showcase Choreographed Routines: Winkler County – Armando Urias, Antonio Ocampo, Natalia Chacon, Bayoeth Acevedo, Alexa Bazaldua, Amberly Marquez, Osmar Gomez, Jimena Villalba, Jose Meneses
 Talent Showcase Musical/Instrumental: Kaufman County – Eli Stecher
 Talent Showcase Variety Show: Bexar County – Hope Berry, Thomas Chacko, Elizabeth Gill, Titus Gill, Benjamin Flanigan, Aaron Flanigan
 Talent Showcase Vocal: Bexar County – Margaret Ogea
 Talent Showcase 4-H Skit: Gillespie County – James Jenschke, Brett Bowers, Brylie Roeder, Landri Ottmers, Reed Spies, Jacé Granville, Jaycee Treibs, Natalie McDonald
 Talent Showcase Poetry Prose: Wise County – Brayden Baird
 Talent Showcase Solo/Band: Grayson County – Mary Clare Foley
 Veterinary Science Skill-A-Thon: Hood County – Kelley Sanders
 Wildlife Challenge: Callahan County – Logan Wrinkle
 Wool and Mohair Judging Evaluation Mohair Individual: Kimble County – Ragan Levien
 Wool and Mohair Judging Mohair Team: Kimble County – Baylee Plumley, Grant Simon, Ragan Levien, Crue Levien
 Wool and Mohair Judging Wool Individual: Sterling County – Carter Glass
 Wool and Mohair Judging Wool Team: Kimble County – Baylee Plumley, Grant Simon, Ragan Levien, Crue Levien
 Fiber Evaluation Overall: Kimble County – Ragan Levien
 Fiber Evaluation Overall: Kimble County – Baylee Plumley, Grant Simon, Ragan Levien, Crue Levien

Videography

1st Place: Hamilton County, Jolon Dann
 2nd Place: Bell County, Matthew Davis
 3rd Place: Denton County, Kelsey Plaisier, Hannah Davis, Grace Real

Photography

Long Exposure: Bee County, Clara Roznovsky
 Landscape & Nature: Dallam County, Gracie Schnieder
 Food: Scurry County, Rykin McCown
 People: Wharton County, Sydney Blair
 Animals Domestic: Burnet County, Avery Meredith
 Details and Macro: DeWitt County, Ella Jander
 Shadow/Silhouette: Collin County, Anna Magnuson
 Enhanced: Kendall County, Keona Ellis
 Motion/Action: Ellis County, William Adkison
 Elements of Design: Guadalupe County, Remington Rohde
 Plant/Flora: Fannin County, Ryan Graves
 Catch All: Fannin County, Ryan Graves

Leading Line: Brazos County, Kyler Wendt
 Reflections: Brazos County, Zachary Smith
 Animals Wildlife: Brazos County, Zachary Smith
 Hunting & Wildlife: Guadalupe County, Remington Rhode; Guadalupe County, Rhett Rhode; Hartley County, Blair Dahl; Erath County, Corbin Powell
 Air Rifle: Burnet County, Bethany Butler; Guadalupe County, McKenna Kelm; Grimes County, Andrew Larkin; Grimes County, Michael Larkin
 Compound Archery: Live Oak County, Brannan Woelfel; Hunt County, Lucas Phillips; Howard County, Erynn Kelley; Armstrong County, Abigail Britten; Upshur County, Kaitlyn Mathews
 Muzzleloading Rifle: Wichita County, Nathaniel Donaghey; Guadalupe County, Jacob Wuest; Guadalupe County, Reece Kelm; Guadalupe County, Connor Upton
 Smallbore Pistol: Williamson County, Mary Steelman; Llano County, Koda Wagner; Erath County, Kaitlynn Branning; Grimes County, Isabella Mercer
 Recurve Archery: Guadalupe County, John Walker Baker; Brazos County, Ryan Marsh; Ellis County, Nemon McKenney; Jim Wells County, Darin Landrum

National Placings

Range Judging: Bee County – Clayton Russell, Addie Brown, Ellie Daughtry, Cassidy Landrum; 8th Place Team
 Soil Judging: Lubbock County – Weston Brown, Mac Chaloupka, Aaron Chaloupka, Madison Chaloupka; 8th Place Team
 Wool Judging: Callahan County – Janna Arnold (High Point Individual), Kilye Winge (Reserve High Point Individual), Kasey Arnold, Avery Walton; Champion Team
 Wool Judging: Kimble County – Brylee Stewart, Pake Sanders, Lila Pope; Reserve Champion Team
 Wool Judging: Burnet County – Claire Poage, McKenzie Evans, Audri Poage; 3rd Place Team
 Wool Judging: Val Verde County – Margaret Zuberbueler, William Zuberbueler, Hailey Billings; 4th Place Team
 Food Challenge: Scurry County – Whitley Anderson, Molly Hearing, Allie Gullett, Kelton White; Champion Team
 Food Challenge: Bexar County – Emma Belzung, Brigitte Bettice, Alexa Lewis, Reese Royce; 3rd Place Team
 Food Challenge: Guadalupe County – Brooke Reiningger, Karlie Schneider, Kayle Lott; 4th Place Team
 Food Challenge: Swisher County – Cutter Runnels, Landry Young, Sadie Nolan; 8th Place Team
 Livestock Judging: Brown County – Hayden Schroeder, Ashtyn Adams, Blaze Cozart, Kyle Land; 3rd Place Team Askarben
 Livestock Judging: Gillespie County – Brylie Roeder, Cade Lehne, Jacob Conner, Kenna Tatsch; 21st Place Team Askarben
 Livestock Judging: Brazos County – Kyler Wendt, Will Herd, Miranda Skaggs, Taylor Colvin; 3rd Place Team American Royal
 Livestock Judging: Coryell County – Samuel Belt, Kinsey Gardner, Trey Harbour, Costin Allison; Reserve Champion Team NAILE
 Livestock Judging: Bell County – Bryce Fisher, Kaylee Eaton, Jessalyn Payne, Jackson Bragg; Champion Team Western National
 Meat Judging: Llano County – Kyle Brown (Reserve High Individual), Dylan Dick, Gentry Phillips, Luke Turner; Reserve Champion Team
 Meat Judging: Guadalupe County – Ava Harboth (High Point Individual), Trenton Mills, Kyla Beck, Hunter Stevens; Champion Team Western National
 Poultry Judging: Brazos County – Scarlett James, Victoria Lowe, Marissa Goode, Summer Halbert; Champion Team
 Horse Judging: Henderson County – Elley Chiesl (Champion High Individual), Bella Bridges, Karli Rayburn, Kurtlee Smith; Champion Team
 Livestock Quiz Bowl: Randall County – Kade Lawrence, Hadlee Cook, Cash Miller, Hope Glenghorn; Champion Team
 Livestock Quiz Bowl: Randall County – Alex Wilson, Barrett Bradshaw, Sunny Cowley, Tanner Owen; Reserve Champion Team Western National Roundup
 Dairy Judging: Cooke County – Alison Becker, Anna Becker, Jolie Bryson, Jena Dangelmayr; 15th Place Team
 Dairy Judging: Erath County – Tom Kupier, Kaleb Osinga, Makayla Osinga, Karmen Kupier; 5th Place Team
 Parliamentary Procedure: Guadalupe County – Morgan Cames, Kage Herfurth, Luke Anderson, Haylee Keyser, Kase Kelso, Justin Braune; Reserve Champion Team
 Consumer Decision Making: Randall County – Halee Johnson (Reserve High Point Individual), TS Bow, Hadley Cook, Kytton Johnson; Reserve Champion Team
 FCH Quiz Bowl: Fayette County – Cooper Mau, Cash Smith, Mackenzie Poncik, Harper Mau; 3rd Place Team
 Horse Quiz Bowl: Brazoria County – Isabelle Hildebrandt, Kara Hernandez, Keira Short, Rachel Wilson; 6th Place Team
 FCS Skill-A-Thon: Wilson County – Logan Baker (High Point Individual), Luke Scribner (Reserve High Point Individual), Hayden Hajovsky, Josh Scribner; Champion Team
 Public Speaking: Smith County – Jaqueline Rand; 4th Place
 FCS Presentation: Bexar County – Jayden Ingalls; Champion
 Fashion Revue: Hale County – Berkeley Carver; Jefferson County – Maggie Landry; Hopkins County – Rylie Carroll; Angelina County – Aubrey Rosser

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE ON THE ROAD

Texas 4-H Ambassadors: International Trips Focusing on Project Area Education and Cultural Experience



4-H youth in Texas are provided life changing opportunities year-round that help them develop into well-rounded citizens who have extensive knowledge and experiences in their passions. Some of those opportunities extend beyond state or even national lines. During the summer of 2023, youth in five state level ambassador groups had the opportunity to travel internationally, learning more about their project area and the culture they visited.

Photography trip attendees.



Capturing Europe Through a Lens

In July 2023, seventeen Photography Ambassadors and Junior Master Photographers traveled to five European countries, which included, Italy, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Lichtenstein.

“Youth gained an educational experience that integrated artistic, cultural, and technical learning. They enhanced their photography skills by engaging with Europe's rich culture and history, while under the guidance and instruction of our Texas 4-H Photography adult volunteers,” Derrick Bruton, STEM project area specialist and Ambassador program lead said. “Simultaneously, youth explored the technical aspects of photography, including the science of light and digital imaging, which align with the principles of STEM education.”

The trip offered a unique blend of cultural and artistic learning experiences, aligning directly with the Texas 4-H STEM project area in several ways.

“Europe's rich history and diverse cultures provided a perfect setting for youth to explore and understand different perspectives,” Bruton said. “Youth encountered not only differences in language, but also differences in currency, traditions, religions, customs, modes of transportation, and history.”

The opportunity offered inter-disciplinary learning, integrating art, science, technology, history, and cultural education.

“The youth also gained artistic skills through photography that are fundamentally grounded in physics and geometry, technical aspects like the basics of a camera to editing software and basic engineering,” Bruton said. “Critical thinking and creativity play into the whole “picture” as well, challenging the youth to decide what to focus on, how to convey a story through emotion, and other critical problem-solving skills that are central to STEM education.”

The Photography Ambassadors and Junior Master Photographers are currently making plans for a similar trip to Scotland and Ireland in 2025. To support or learn more about this trip, contact project lead, Derrick Bruton at d-bruton@tamu.edu.

Slicing Into Health and Safety in Ecuador

In July 2023, thirteen Healthy Texas Youth Ambassadors embarked on a South American journey in Ecuador to learn about health and safety standards in a foreign country while partaking in cultural experiences along the way.

“The HTYA international trip to Ecuador allowed for exploration and comparison of food, nutrition, health, and safety,” Dr.

Julie Gardner, Family and Community Health project area specialist and Ambassador program lead said. “The youth were able to see firsthand the difference in not only international cuisine, but language, culinary practices, food safety, and personal safety. By doing so, our HTYAs have a greater appreciation and understanding of cultural differences and practices related to various aspects of health.”

The health guideline differences between the United States and Ecuador were the biggest learning experience to many of the trip attendees.

“For example, it was shocking to some the difference between laws regarding seatbelts and passenger safety. Many commented on the fact that children weren’t buckled up, and in many cases, there were motorcycles traveling with up to four passengers on them,” Dr. Gardner said. “Overall, the youth gained valuable life skills related to appreciating those of diverse backgrounds, languages, and food, safety, and health practices.”



HTYA trip attendees.

The group is currently planning a trip in the summer of 2024 to southern Italy for a culture and cuisine tour, where the focus will be on food as it relates to preparation, nutrition, and safety. To learn more about supporting this opportunity, reach out to Dr. Gardner at julie.gardner@ag.tamu.edu.

Australia trip attendees.

Experiencing Agriculture in the Land Down Under

In August of 2023, 35 Texas 4-H Livestock, Equine and Poultry Ambassadors traveled to Australia to explore agriculture on a more global scale. Dr. Billy Zanolini is the Texas 4-H Agriculture and Livestock project area specialist who leads the ambassador groups, alongside his Texas Youth Livestock and Agriculture team.



“The youth visited many different agricultural practices in Australia such as a large-scale beef, equine, and sheep industries, a saleyard, and a research institute,” Dr. Zanolini said. “These exercises and understanding will help the Texas youth become better advocates for their own livestock back home.”

Participants also visited multi-crop farms and embarked upon cultural experiences like a cruise of the Sydney Harbor and connecting with the Bunya’s People’s Aboriginal Corporation at the top of the Bunya Mountains to participate in a ritual connecting their people to the land.

“I will forever be grateful for TYLA and everything they do for youth in agriculture,” trip attendee and former Texas 4-H livestock ambassador McKenzie Evans said. “I’m so glad I could end my 4-H career in Australia with 35 people that I now consider my family. I can’t wait to apply what I’ve learned and continue to expand my agricultural knowledge at Texas A&M University.”

Plans are underway for the Equine, Livestock, and Poultry Ambassadors to take a trip similar in nature to Canada and northern United States in the summer of 2024. To learn more about supporting the Ambassador programs or educational experiences, contact program lead, Dr. Billy Zanolini at wfzanolini@ag.tamu.edu.



HTYA Ambassadors at Ecuador market.



AMBASSADORS IN ACTION

There are nine statewide programs in which senior level, or high school age youth learn, grow, educate, and experience in their chosen project area. The youth in the programs are selected from an application process and participate in trainings led by Extension and industry professionals in which they learn how to then educate others. The Ambassadors are challenged to not only complete community service projects but educate other youth and adults in their communities across Texas. These youth have opportunities to travel and gain experience across the state, nation, and even globe to gain cultural understanding and industry education.



EQUINE

27 ACTIVE AMBASSADORS

18,207 SERVICE HOURS

FIVE BIG THINGS...

1. Through more than 18,000 face-to-face and virtual service hours, the Ambassadors reached 33,649 people.
2. Putting a monetary value to the work the Ambassadors did in education, service, and outreach to youth and adults, the Equine Ambassadors made a monetary impact of \$63,377 in 2022-2023.
3. Seventeen Equine Ambassadors were trained at the 2023 short course held at Texas A&M University in July.
4. Three Equine Ambassadors in their second year or more of the program attended Advocacy Academy in Austin, Texas, learning about appropriately sharing their story and how to communicate effectively.
5. David Kendrick and Kylan Canon, veteran Equine Ambassadors, were part of the group that embarked on a 10-day experience in Australia learning about agriculture and extension culture "to the land down under."

FASHION & INTERIOR DESIGN

27 ACTIVE AMBASSADORS

291 SERVICE HOURS

FIVE BIG THINGS...

1. Ambassador Graycie M. created headbands to raise money for UT Callier center to help families with the cost of hearing aides.
2. Madelyn H. created Love Bug Pillows for every student at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde.
3. Ambassadors spent time focusing on eco-friendly fashion through clothing exchanges, clothing drives and blue jeans go green.
4. The Ambassadors began making quilts for and educating others about the Quilts of Valor program, donating quilts to veterans and active service military members.
5. Through 152 face-to-face teaching or service opportunities across the state, Ambassadors reached, 2,272 people.

HEALTHY TEXAS YOUTH

147 ACTIVE AMBASSADORS

5,793 SERVICE HOURS

FIVE BIG THINGS...

1. The Ambassadors embarked on a new kind of journey, taking their first International trip to Ecuador, learning about Health and Safety abroad.
2. The South Texas Road Trip was a collaborative effort among several South Texas counties where the Ambassadors traveled together to learn the connections between agriculture and health in their part of the state.
3. Many HTYA teams organized, planted, maintained, and harvested community gardens this year. Youth led programs teaching the importance of nutrition to health.
4. Ambassadors completed 1,225 total programs related to nutrition, health, and safety.
5. Through delivery of up-to-date, research based information to people of all ages, stages, and walks of life, Ambassadors reached 89,799 total people with education.

LIVESTOCK

154 ACTIVE AMBASSADORS



18,207 SERVICE HOURS



FIVE BIG THINGS...

1. Through more than 18,000 face-to-face and virtual service hours, the Ambassadors reached 461,939 people.
2. Putting a monetary value to the work the Ambassadors did in education, service, and outreach to youth and adults, the Livestock Ambassadors made a monetary impact of \$578,983 in 2022-2023.
3. Eighty-six Livestock Ambassadors were trained at the short courses held at Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, and West Texas A&M University/Texas Tech University in June and July.
4. Thirty-six Livestock Ambassadors in their second year or more of the program attended Advocacy Academy in Austin, Texas, learning about appropriately sharing their story and how to communicate effectively.
5. Thirty-three Ambassadors in at least their second year of the program embarked on a 10 day experience in Australia, learning about agriculture and common culture "in the land down under."

PHOTOGRAPHY

21 ACTIVE AMBASSADORS



2,362 SERVICE HOURS



FIVE BIG THINGS...

1. 17 youth and 18 adults photographed their way through five European countries, on the first Photography Ambassador and Junior Master Photographer International Trip.
2. 35 new Junior Master Photographers were trained and 22 achieved certification.
3. Conducted photography field trips including San Antonio, Hot Springs, Newman's Castle in Bellville, astrophotography in Big Bend National Park, Homestead Heritage "Living off the Land" Festival, and Hill Country Bluebonnet Trail.
4. Took photos as service projects at: National Wild Turkey Federation's Women in the Outdoors, Breast Cancer Foundation's "Reeling in the Cure", Cotton Gin Festival.
5. Plans are underway to take another international photography trip in 2025 to Ireland and Scotland.

POULTRY

14 ACTIVE AMBASSADORS



782 SERVICE HOURS



FIVE BIG THINGS...

1. Through more than 780 face-to-face and virtual service hours, the Ambassadors reached 16,244 people.
2. Putting a monetary value to the work the Ambassadors did in education, service, and outreach to youth and adults, the Equine Ambassadors made a monetary impact of \$24,868 in 2022-2023.
3. Fourteen new Poultry Ambassador were trained at the short course held at Texas A&M University in June.
4. Evelyn Landry represented the Poultry Ambassadors at Advocacy Academy in Austin, Texas, learning about appropriately sharing their story and how to communicate effectively.
5. Poultry Ambassador Andrew Childress, was part of the group that embarked on a 10 day experience in Australia, learning about agriculture and common culture "in the land down under."

SHOOTING SPORTS

42 ACTIVE AMBASSADORS



FIVE BIG THINGS...

1. Ten Shooting Sports Ambassadors attended the Texas 4-H Leadership trip to the Capitol where they met with legislators and professionals who taught them how to promote their project areas.
2. Eleven Ambassadors qualified for the 4-H National Shooting Sports competition on the Texas Team.
3. The Ambassadors represented the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports program in donor and supporter events and with the general public.
4. The Ambassadors represented the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports program in media relations events throughout the year.
5. Ambassadors provided education to younger 4-H members and adults on the Shooting Sports program and gun safety.

STEM

29 ACTIVE AMBASSADORS



1,057 SERVICE HOURS



FIVE BIG THINGS...

1. Through delivery of up-to-date information and service to people of all ages, stages, and walks of life, Ambassadors reached 13,494 total people with 642 hours of education.
2. Team development is crucial for the STEM Ambassadors as they learn from advisors, industry professionals, and others, to deliver quality outputs. The team taught each other in 529 hours of team development.
3. Three ambassadors traveled to California as part of an exchange where they led a STEM workshop and helped produce newscasts along with their California counterparts at the California 4-H State Leadership Conference.
4. STEM Ambassadors served as host to the second annual 4-H Night at NASA; 217 youth and 137 adults attended.
5. Developed four newscasts for Texas 4-H Roundup educating attendees of the events and stories of the event.

WATER

59 ACTIVE AMBASSADORS



3,134 SERVICE HOURS



FIVE BIG THINGS...

1. Joshua J., a four-year 4-H Water Ambassador and former State 4-H Council member, was invited by Kansas 4-H to present about the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program.
2. Thirteen current and former Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors were awarded scholarships from the Texas Ground Water Association.
3. Ambassador alumni Molly M. was selected for the fall 2023 cohort of the Texas A&M Public Policy Internship Program where she is interning for Bose Public Affairs Group.
4. Ambassador alumni Bailey H. was selected for the Agricultural and Natural Resources Policy Internship Program at Texas A&M University during the Texas 88th Legislative Session in the spring of 2023.
5. Led a four week-long 4-H2O Leadership Academy, traveling more than 4,000 miles across Texas.



4-H Youth Gain Understanding of Civic Engagement

National 4-H Conference: Education in Action

The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program not only provides youth the opportunity to expand their horizons in career areas like natural resources and STEM, but also the chance to gain life skills like civic engagement, teamwork, cultural understanding, and communication.

The 4-H “learning by doing” model means that youth are provided many opportunities to put their newfound knowledge to the test in various subject areas. The leadership and citizenship project area provides a unique opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. as a teenager and provide a voice for local communities to federal leaders.

Six delegates and two chaperones attended the National 4-H Conference in Washington D.C., April 13-19, 2023. The Texas delegates were joined by youth from the other 49 states in exploring, learning, and working with U.S. federal agencies.

According to the National 4-H Conference website, ‘National 4-H Conference is the pinnacle experience in 4-H Civic Engagement, providing the opportunity for young people to connect, learn, engage, lead, and impact their communities, nation and world. At the conference,

delegates will have the opportunity to participate in round table discussions and present to federal partner agencies along with the opportunity for delegates to engage with their U.S. Senators and Representatives.’

Megan Logan is an Extension Specialist for the 4-H Leadership and Citizenship project.

“The youth who participate in this event are becoming prepared to be an active member of society, learning how to approach and discuss items of importance for them, and gaining a better understanding of our government,” Logan said. “The youth learned the importance of speaking up for the things they believe in, how to present on a matter as a group, and how to respect other people’s thoughts and opinions.”

Participants met with other youth, United States Senators and Representatives, commodity groups, and stakeholders. Upon receiving their round table assignments, the youth got right to work with their peers on developing a presentation and formulating their ideas on what really mattered to today’s youth.



Texas delegates and chaperones.



When Kambell joined 4-H four years ago, she attended her first meeting hesitantly after a little encouragement from her Mom.

“I honestly joined 4-H pretty unwillingly. It wasn’t really something I had on my radar or something I thought would benefit me,” Kambell said. “Looking back on It, I can’t believe 4-H was something I didn’t want to be part of because of all of the incredible ways it has benefitted me and it will continue to benefit me in the future.”

“As part of the event, youth were provided time with Representatives or Senators, or their staff members, and commodity groups to actually discuss their ideas and possible ways to implement,” Logan said. “Watching these youth speak to their passions at the National level is always a heartwarming experience as these youth are truly the leadership for our future.”

Aiden Hunter, a 4-H member from Ellis County, and Kambell Stewart, a 4-H member from Burnet County, haven’t been in 4-H for long, but have made the most of the time they have had, such as being selected to attend the 2023 National 4-H Conference.

“It’s really something that’s unlike any other 4-H experience you’re going to get,” Aiden said. “It’s especially unique being able to work with kids from other 4-H programs across the nation.”

Aiden’s roundtable group included youth from Arizona to Delaware, bringing together a plethora of differing values and ideas.

“What I wanted to get out of this experience was meeting new people and learning a little bit more about how our federal government works, and I definitely got that out of it by the time we left,” Aiden said. “While networking and sightseeing was part of it, our main goal was to show the federal agencies the importance of Extension programs and 4-H, and the impact it has on local communities.”

After her experience at Texas 4-H Congress in 2022, Kambell Stewart jumped at the opportunity presented by her County Extension Agent to explore the nation’s capitol and learn how the government works with not only other agencies, but also the public. Kambell got to interact with the U.S. Department of Education.

“Coming from public school, I truly got to see where my objectives are made and where the things that I learn in the classroom every day are coming from and the purpose behind it. That was really impactful to me,” Kambell said. “But I also got to just tell them my experiences and they truly valued that. That was honestly incredible.”

Both Aiden and Kambell described their National 4-H Conference experience as “life-changing.” This is not only from the skills they learned or the opportunities they had, but also the conversations they were part of.

“For me personally, I do ag mechanics and everyone in D.C. said we need people that are familiar with the (agriculture) industry, but can also be in a professional setting,” Kambell said. “That’s like my dream, to be that, so hearing that was so encouraging and complete words of affirmation that I am doing the right thing and that they are looking for people that have been in 4-H and that know how to work hard and stay determined.”

The National 4-H Conference Texas delegation will be selected through an application process in early 2024.

Through 4-H, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides an opportunity to youth ages 8-18 across the state to learn about life through the areas of agriculture and livestock, family and community health, leadership and citizenship, natural resources, and STEM. The experiences go beyond subject matter areas and teach communication, community care, teamwork, dedication, and perseverance, to name a few. Learn more about 4-H or find the contact information for your local agent at texas4-h.tamu.edu.



Kambell Stewart with view of the Capitol.



Dear Texas 4-H,

As I look back on the 2022-2023 year, I quickly realized that there is no way to describe how amazing this organization is that we as 4-H members, of all ages, represent. The only way I know how to say it - I am extremely blessed to be part of Texas 4-H. In my opinion, you will be hard pressed to find an organization that produces this magnitude of truly genuine people who care about agriculture and livestock, family and community health, leadership and citizenship, natural resources, and STEM, and pass down knowledge to younger generations, all while putting their best foot forward to represent themselves and Texas 4-H with integrity.

Spending this past year on Council was the best thing I have ever done. From serving others, to getting to know and hopefully inspiring future generations of 4-H members, all while making friendships that will last a lifetime. Simply put, I do not know what the future holds for me, but I do know that God has big plans ahead and I am very thankful he gave me opportunities through 4-H which laid an amazing foundation.

Going forward, I want to challenge you, Texas 4-H members, to not be scared of what is ahead, but instead, dream big dreams and set big goals. There will be hardships to overcome, but staying diligent is part of the journey on the path to success. I have no doubt that 4-H is in great hands. Always strive valiantly; do not be afraid to fall short because that's when you will see your true character; and finally dare greatly in all that you do. By doing these things it is very easy to not only make your best better, but everything and everyone around you better. When you get to the end of your 4-H career, I hope you can look back and see the positive experiences that impacted you, the people who cared so much about you who poured their best into you, as well as the lives you touched through your endless leadership and service to others.

Graden Allen, Texas 4-H Council President 2022-2023.



2023 TEXAS 4-H

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to our 2023 Texas 4-H Photography Contest champions!
 The remaining champion photos are utilized throughout the book. To learn more about the photography contest or to support the Photography Ambassador program, please contact the program lead:
 Derrick Bruton | d-bruton@tamu.edu | 972-952-9264



Photo by: Rykin M., Scurry Co.



Photo by: Ryan G., Fannin Co.

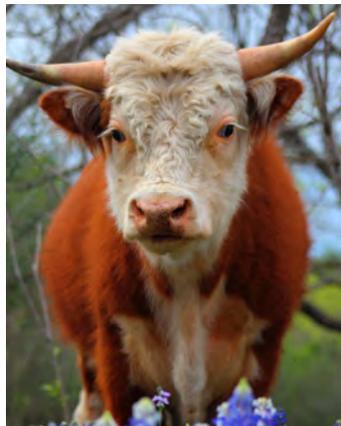


Photo by: Avery M., Burnet Co.



Photo by: Ella J., DeWitt Co.



Photo by: Sydney B., Wharton Co.



Photo by: Zachary S., Brazos Co.



Photo by: Clara R., Bee Co.



Photo by: Remington R., Guadalupe Co.

Backyard Blackened Catfish

Anzlee Hale, Scurry County, District 2, Main Dish | Prep time: 15 minutes, cook time 8 minutes

- 2 whole catfish fillets
- 4 T olive oil
- 1 cup chopped white onion
- ¼ cup chopped green bell pepper
- ¼ cup diced cherry tomato
- 1 cup whole corn kernels
- 2 T olive oil
- 1 slice of lemon
- 2 T cali's blackened seasoning
- 3 t garlic powder

1. Fillet 1 catfish, then pat fillets dry. Coat each fillet in seasoning and top with garlic powder. Next, heat olive oil in your cast iron skillet. Once hot, add each fillet and let them cook for 3-5 minutes on each side, or until dark and crispy. Remove fillets from skillet and place them on your plate.
2. For the garnish, chop 1 cup of onion, ¼ cup of green bell pepper, and dice ¼ cup of tomato. Mix the vegetables with 1 cup of corn and a tablespoon of olive oil. Place the mixture on top of the fillets and add cilantro and 1 slice of lemon on top.

Yields 1 serving per pound of catfish. Each fillet is 1 serving.



2022-2023 TEXAS 4-H COUNCIL



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2023 SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE

Lisa Wright
A Journey Through Service

From horseback to chemotherapy, Lisa Wright is a fighter. A leader. A friend. A 4-H volunteer. A 2023 Salute to Excellence – Leader Legacy Winner.

Lisa Wright, a Plainview, Texas, native has been volunteering with the Hale County 4-H program for 23 years.

“I started when my son was young. We joined with him and found out what a wonderful program it was and how it can change your life,” Wright said. “Now, I continue to volunteer just to try to let people know what a good program it is, and I love it.”

Wright continued volunteering after her own children graduated to further serve the program she believes in so dearly. She now leads as the Horse Club manager, county event “official decorator,” and “giver of laughs and hugs when kids need them most.”

“I just truly believe that 4-H is an amazing program for all that will stick with it,” Wright said. “Life’s not about what you can do, but what you can help others do and I think that kind of sums 4-H up.”



Lisa and her two sisters.

While Wright has continued to serve the 4-H program wholeheartedly, it hasn’t been without adversity in her personal life.

“My sister was diagnosed in March of 2017, and I was diagnosed in August of 2017. We both had breast cancer in our left breast,” Wright said. “We supported each other through it, but hers had already advanced, and we lost her in September of 2018.”

Through loss and illness, Wright focused on family, faith, and 4-H to help her through the hard days. Wright is proud to share that she is now cancer free and doing well.

"You realize what's really important: just surviving," Wright said. "If the doctor tells you that you have cancer, don't start dying. You just fight through it. Trust in the Lord and keep going. You can't give up."

Wright emphasized that she couldn't have made it through without her support system. One of her main comrades is Mrs. Cheney, her "absolute best friend" who joined 4-H at the same time she did and has been along for the ride ever since, roping in fun wherever they go.

"I've always had long hair and that was one of my biggest fears, losing my hair. But when it started coming out, we got the goat clippers," Wright said. "First, Ms. Chaney clipped my braid. And then her daughter got the goat clippers and shaved my head, so we laughed over something that was just hard."

While a cancer diagnosis and the loss of a sister to the same disease may stop many right in their 4-H trail, Mrs. Lisa Wright allowed her love for the program and the kids to propel her forward.



Lisa and her 4-H club members ride their horses to Sonic for a summer treat.

Lisa and Ms. Chaney.



"I enjoy being around kids and just living life, and that's what got me through it," Wright said. "If you enjoy it or make people enjoy it, they'll want to come more, and I hope that we do that with our kids. But I'm just glad to be here so that I can continue to be a volunteer for 4-H."

While Wright's life is a success story, the real winners here are the 4-H kids who benefit from trailblazers like her. Across the state, 4-H youth need volunteers who can provide leadership and service. Everyone has something to offer to the 4-H program, and we want your expertise. Visit texas4-h.tamu.edu or reach out to laura.huebinger@ag.tamu.edu to learn more about volunteering for the 4-H program.

Each year, the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program provides awards and recognition for various individuals and groups that provide support to the 4-H program. The dedication, leadership, and support of our volunteers and partnership organizations allow the Texas 4-H Program to reach a larger number of youth to make a positive difference in their lives and communities. To recognize a volunteer, organization, or employee for their dedication, nominate them for a Texas 4-H award! Nominations are due annually in March. Contact laura.huebinger@ag.tamu.edu for more information about sponsoring the program or nominating a volunteer. Visit texas4-h.tamu.edu/awards/ to learn more.

Congratulations to the 2023 winners!

We recognize two volunteers from each district for the Salute to Excellence Awards. Additionally, we award five special recognitions. Those awards are: Alumni, a volunteer who is also a 4-H alumni, Citation for Service, a supporter on the statewide or regional basis rather than local, Commendable Service, an AgriLife Extension Support Staff Professional, Leader Legacy, a volunteer who has served for 20 years or more, and Meritorious Service, an outstanding Extension professional who makes 4-H volunteers more effective. The following pages recognize our 2023 winners.



Rodney Robertson, District 1, Gray County - Salute to Excellence

"Rodney Robertson is an exemplary volunteer for the Gray County 4-H program. For seven years, Rodney has worked tirelessly to build and sustain a successful Shooting Sports Shotgun program. His passion and commitment have resulted in securing \$17,615 for the Gray County Shotgun Program through Phillips 66, NRA Grant, and Fun Shoots. Moreover, he generously works with coaches from surrounding counties to help them build their own programs; his dedication knows no bounds! The leadership skills that Rodney exhibits are truly remarkable and deserve recognition; therefore it is only fitting that he should receive the Salute to Excellence Award as a token of appreciation for all of his hard work!"



Sandra Mowry, District 1, Randall County - Salute to Excellence

"Sandra Mowry has been involved in the Randall 4-H program for six years. She has served as club manager for Clover Kids, a project leader for Food & Nutrition and Fashion & Interior design, and serves as the Parent Booster President. She is responsible for raising thousands of dollars through donations and fundraising events to help pay for scholarships, project expenses, and national contests. Sandra has a heart for 4-H and is making a huge impact on the youth of Randall County.



Juli Belt Wood, District 2, Hockley County - Salute to Excellence

"Inspiring, motivated, and humble are three words used to describe Juli Belt Wood. Juli has been a 14-year volunteer helping others learn from the diverse 4-H programs. She assists her own two children, Kennedy and Carson, but also countless others as a volunteer of the Levelland and Whitharral 4-H Club. She has assisted with Food and Nutrition, Clothing and Textiles, and Veterinary Sciences projects. In addition, she has been an instrumental figure when it comes to helping the youth with community service projects and leading fundraisers for the county. Hockley County 4-H is better every day because of Juli!"



Shelley Berry, District 2, Hale County - Salute to Excellence

"Shelley Berry, of Hale County 4-H, is the epitome of what a "4-H Mom" is. She leads with grace and poise and is always excited to lend a helping hand. Many 4-H members would tell you she is an "extra" 4-H mom and mentor to anyone she meets. When asked what she liked about working with the 4-H program, she said, "I love to see kids learn amazing life skills while having fun and to see the community we have working with each other."



Kristi Brantley, District 3, Parker County - Salute to Excellence

"Kristie Brantley has served as a Parker County 4-H Volunteer leader for the past eight years. Kristie has served as the county-wide Fashion and Interior Design project leader for the past five years, and sharing her endless and practical knowledge, which has grown the county program exponentially. She has been an executive member of the Parker County 4-H Parent Leader Association and has been a key component in the planning and implementation of our Parker County 4-H Cash for Clovers Scholarship fundraising event. Needless to say, Kristi Brantley has a passion for the 4-H program and her community."



Casey and Deidrea Mabry, District 3, Parker County - Salute to Excellence

"Casey and Deidrea Mabry have served as Parker County 4-H volunteers for the past four years. In this short time they have amplified the Parker County 4-H Meat Science project to the largest it has ever been. When they first reached out after moving back to Texas, they told of their passion for educating youth about meat science and wanting to help in any way they could. They had coached a national winning 4-H team in Wyoming and made a promise to their team that they would not coach another until those members had graduated. Parker County 4-H is lucky to have such dedicated leaders that have such a passion and great knowledge."



Emily Holt, District 4, Denton County - Salute to Excellence

"As an alumni of 4-H, Emily knows all about what it means to make the best better. Emily has been a volunteer with Denton County 4-H for the past six years. She has helped to start and lead a few different projects, including Fashion & Interior Design and Public Speaking. Through her projects and leadership in her local club, Emily has impacted over 500 youth in her short time as a volunteer. Her holistic view of the county 4-H program and realistic expectations set the tone for growth of the county 4-H program. Emily leads by example as the volunteer association president and has created an environment where any and every volunteer is welcomed."



Bill and Kathrin Esposito, District 4, Collin County - Salute to Excellence

"Bill and Kathrin Esposito have each served as leaders in Collin County 4-H for over 15 years. Their dedication to youth development and learning is without equal. Bill enjoys cooking and has a passion for sharing his food and nutrition knowledge with those around him. Kathrin enjoys growing leadership and public speaking skills in her 4-H youth, and uses her eye for detail to help keep the Legacy 4-H club in order. The Espositos' zeal for life, love of learning, and compassion for young adults truly make a difference in the lives of their club members. They are growing tomorrow's leaders and Collin County is blessed to have them as volunteers."



Milton Marshall, District 5, Gregg County - Salute to Excellence

"Milton Marshall has served as a Gregg County 4-H Volunteer for three and a half years. Milton led his family to the Gregg County 4-H Youth Development Program at the onset of Covid-19. Milton completed the 4-H Club Manager Training and began to recruit other youth and families. While recruiting and building Shamrock's 4-H Club membership, Milton was instrumental in assisting with establishing the Gregg County 4-H Adult Leader's Committee and 4-H Archery program. He became a Certified Shooting Sports Coach for Archery. Milton is an asset and an exceptional leader for our 4-H program. He believes in involving the whole family and makes sure we have youth-adult partnerships at club meetings and county events. Milton is dedicated and leads with patience, kindness, consistency, and selfless service."



Brandee Wofford, District 5, Cherokee County - Salute to Excellence

"Selfless giver" is the phrase used time and again to describe Mrs. Brandee Wofford. Her consistent service and dedication to 4-H for more than a decade is a marathon achievement that few can claim. Bluebonnet 4-H has had the good fortune to have had her. Brandee takes her mission to grow leaders seriously! She brings out the best in her 4-H members by convincing them to constantly move out of their comfort zones and to develop and refine new skills in order to find their true passions in life. While Brandee spends an inordinate amount of time with Bluebonnet, she is never selfish with her time and talents and gladly guides and mentors youth from all neighboring 4-H clubs when the need arises. Brandee has provided a great service to her community and to the world by developing our true leaders of tomorrow."



Jennifer Thurman, District 6, Ward County - Salute to Excellence

"Jennifer resides in Monahans, Texas with her husband Carl & children Faith, Samantha, William and Lainey. She has been serving Ward County 4-H as an Adult Volunteer for over six years. Over the course of her volunteer duration she has served as a Food & Nutrition Project Leader, Senior Club 4-H Club Manager, and Adult Leader Association Treasurer. As she wears so many hats, Jenny has always made it a point to include our 4-H members in those various activities, whether it be at fundraisers or community service adventures within the county."



Justin Epperson, District 6, Upton County - Salute to Excellence

"Justin Epperson became a volunteer with Upton County 4-H when his children enrolled. He first started volunteering with the county livestock show in 2018 and became a Certified Shooting Sports Coach four years ago. He initially started with the Rifle Shooting Program. By the second year of the program, enrollment doubled within all age groups. It is now the second largest program in the county. Due to the increase in the program, there is now a certified assistant coach to help. Coach Epperson will be taking BB Gun Shooters to the National Competition this year and the Rifle Shooting teams will be competing at the D6 competition. Coach Justin Epperson's dedication and mentorship to this program is acknowledged by all in Upton County 4-H."



Billy and Mary Kniffen, District 7, Menard County - Salute to Excellence

"Billy and Mary Kniffen have been instrumental in the Menard 4-H Program for 20 years. In 2005 Mary and Billy formed the Menard Morning Glories Junior Master Gardener Program with only 5 participants. The Kniffens continued the program themselves for 15 years, growing its membership to 30+ members! This program is now in its 18th year, having won multiple awards including Texas JMG Group of the Year and National JMG Group of the year, JMG Leader of the Year and JMG student of the year. Mary has been instrumental in writing and acquiring grants for Menard JMG group and the Learn Grow Eat Go program. The Kniffens have laid a firm groundwork for the program to thrive in the future and they continue to help with the Learn Grow Eat Go program at the school as well as the upkeep of the Community Garden."



Junior & Sylvia Carrillo, District 7, Irion County - Salute to Excellence

"Junior and Sylvia Carrillo have been volunteers with Irion County 4-H Shooting Sports for 14 years. They are incredibly kind and patient with new and experienced shooters. They never fail to encourage shooting sports participants and make sure the kids know how proud they are of the work they do. Junior and Sylvia volunteer not for gratitude, glory, or recognition. They do it for the pure and simple joy of empowering 4-H members and watching them grow. They are beloved by the 4-H members and go above and beyond to show they love them right back."



John Adams, District 8, Leon County - Salute to Excellence

"John Adams has served as the Leon County 4-H Rifle Project coach for over 26 years. He has not only coached his own sons and now grandsons, but also hundreds of Leon County 4-H members, as well. John's whole family has built and continues to build the Leon County 4-H Rifle project. There are currently around 50 youth that are involved in the rifle project and John's two sons, Clint and Colton, are now coaching alongside their dad. The Leon County 4-H Rifle Project would not be successful without Mr. John and the Adams Family."



Caryl Lawrence, District 8, Eastland County - Salute to Excellence

"The name Caryl Lawrence and "4-H" in Eastland County go hand in hand. Caryl has tirelessly served for 18 years on the Eastland County 4-H Adult Leaders Advisory Board and 12 years as the Rising Star 4-H Club Manager. She currently serves as the County 4-H Council Adult Advisor and has been the Eastland County Livestock Raisers Association Secretary for 12 years. Most importantly, she has raised four very active 4-H members who have been pillars of the Eastland County 4-H program. One 4-H member said, "Mrs. Caryl is the best club manager anyone could ask for! She goes above and beyond to accommodate all members and their schedules. She is kind, loving, caring, and provides unlimited support to all of her 'kids.'" She is the perfect example of a true leader, and she serves as the ultimate role model. We are blessed to have Mrs. Caryl as our leader."



Desi & Shane Porter, District 9, Montgomery County - Salute to Excellence

"As a team, Desi and Shane are the textbook example of dedicated volunteers. During their time fully submerged into 4-H, they have contributed more than many do in their lifetime. Their selflessness has grown numerous programs within the Evening Star club and the entire county. Shane has grown livestock judging throughout the county, providing hours of education and practice available to the entire county. Within the club, they have worked with members to provide any information to grow more programs. Desi has volunteered many hours to the county during the year and fair season, helping the show staff office. They are never too busy to help another member and they are dedicated to impacting the lives of the youth."



Stacy Schneider, District 9, Brazos County - Salute to Excellence

"Abraham Lincoln stated "the best way to predict the future is to create it." Clearly this statement was made prior to the development of Texas 4-H, but it is one that reflects what successful 4-H leaders do, and there is not a nominee that embraces this concept more than Stacy Schneider. She has served the youth of Texas for the past 12 years, assisting in countless leadership positions and on numerous volunteer boards. Her peers and Extension Agents describe her as "the gold standard of what a 4-H club manager, project leader, coach and parent should be." She has served in roles from Livestock Skill-A-Thon coach, to club manager for over a decade, to chairman for the Adult Leaders Association that last year alone awarded \$16,000 to 4-H youth in Brazos County. There is no one more deserving of the Texas 4-H Salute to Excellence award than Stacy Schneider."



Fred Stehling, District 10, Kendall County - Salute to Excellence

"Fred Stehling is an outstanding individual who has dedicated not only 33 years of his own life to the Kendall County 4-H program, but has also opened his own property to house the rifle range for those 33 years. Through that time, he has impacted thousands of youth who have gained the rifle disciplines that they still utilize in their everyday lives. Fred has spent many Sunday afternoons building self confidence amongst the youth and educating the youth of Kendall County. His contributions make him a phenomenal piece of the puzzle that makes our program so successful."



Patty Hoffmann, District 10, Comal County - Salute to Excellence

"Patty Hoffmann has been a 4-H Volunteer, Club Manager, and Project Leader for over 25 years. Patty started the Bluebonnet 4-H Club in 2004 with about 20 members the first year. The Club has grown over the years to now having over 50 active members with a wide variety of projects. Patty, being a Registered Licensed Dietitian, was very passionate about the Food & Nutrition project including contests like Nutrition Quiz Bowl and especially Food Challenge. Many of her Food Challenge Teams won District and competed at State and National levels over the years. Patty also coached Livestock Judging and Livestock Quiz Bowl teams as well. Additionally, she helped found the Special Hearts Ambassadors who host the Special Hearts Livestock Show in Comal County. It is an event that helps give disabled youth the chance to show an animal for a day."



Travis Janak, District 11, Aransas County - Salute to Excellence

"Travis Janak is a remarkable example of an excellent 4-H leader. His steadfastness and dedication are a true support for our county program's growth. He leads by example, modeling important leadership attributes such as reliability—following through on every commitment that he makes; responsibility-taking on leadership of the Archery and Consumer Decision Making projects and county club management; and excellent communication—coordinating with Extension agents and keeping 4-H youth and parents informed. He exemplifies the 4-H club motto by giving his "hands to larger service."



Christy Moran, District 11, Washington County - Salute to Excellence

"When thinking about the characteristics of Christy Moran and her time while serving as a 4-H volunteer, the main three attributes that come to mind are selfless, hardworking and success-oriented. Christy wants to see all 4-H members succeed and goes above and beyond to make sure that every 4-H member and family has the tools for success. She volunteers with the 4-H program on local, county, and district levels. Christy has organized multiple county level events that continue to grow the 4-H program in Washington County. Her heart for the 4-H program is truly special and deserving of this award."



Christine DuBose, District 12, Live Oak County - Salute to Excellence

"Mrs. Christine DuBose has contributed her time, money and efforts to make sure the Texas 4-H program thrives. She does anything to make sure 4-H members and the people around her succeed. She has dedicated her time to volunteering on a county, district and state level. She goes above and beyond to help with programs by getting items donated, showing up early and staying late, and never saying no. Mrs. DuBose is the Longhorn 4-H club manager and the Live Oak County Council Manager. She never expects anything in return, which is why it is an honor to present her with this award."



Johanna Hagen, District 12, Atascosa County - Salute to Excellence

"Mrs. Johanna Hagen has been a valuable part of the Atascosa County 4-H and the Texas 4-H program for many years. She started out as a member of Texas 4-H herself and participated in many projects as a youth member. Once she became a mother to 4-H age youth, she returned to the organization as a dedicated volunteer. As a volunteer, she has led the youth of Atascosa County 4-H as a Consumer Decision Making Project Coach, County Council Advisor, Ambassador Advisor, Club Manager, and so much more."



Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Level 2 Instructors - Citation for Outstanding Service to 4-H

"The Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Level 2 Instructors are Nationally Certified Volunteer Instructors providing training in Archery, Shotgun, Rifle, Pistol, Muzzleloading, Hunting & Wildlife Skills and Western Heritage to over 1000 local volunteers annually across Texas. There are approximately 35 Instructors statewide and they utilize a consistent, researched based national curriculum emphasizing safety and first shot fundamentals through deliberate and positive learning experiences. Through the commitment of the Level 2 Instructors, the Texas 4-H Shooting Program reaches over 18,000 Texas youth with organized learning experiences, regular practices, and competition at the Club, County, District, State and National levels with a commendable level of success and safety."



Gillespie County Commissioners Court - Citation for Outstanding Service to 4-H

"The Gillespie County Commissioners Court has been a loyal supporter of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension programming by investing over 3.8 million dollars into a new facility in 2020. The building houses four County Extension Agents, two county full time secretaries, and a room to host a magnitude of local, district, regional, and state level educational programs. The new Texas A&M AgriLife Extension building has hosted district and regional agent and specialist trainings, district and state 4-H contests, as well as a variety of local 4-H youth activities. The Gillespie County Commissioners Court have supported 4-H youth in a multitude of ways and the investment in this facility will be used for many years to come in continued support of the 4-H program and Extension activities."



Texas 4-H Roping School - Citation for Outstanding Service to 4-H

"This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Texas 4-H Calf Roping School. This camp began in 1973 by a group of Agents, Specialists, and a committee of volunteers who saw a group of youth interested in horsemanship projects, beyond what is typically found at a 4-H horse show. This camp has reached approximately 2,430 kids and contributed more than 101,000 volunteer hours to making the best better. The School has changed a bit over the past 50 years, moving locations and surviving changes with Extension, with Texas 4-H, and with personnel at all levels. One thing has remained the same, though; the passion and dedication of the volunteers and committee members who implement the Texas 4-H Roping School to not only the sport but to the 4-H members who participate."



Emily Besser, District 9, Brazos County - Commendable Service Award

"Emily Besser serves a valuable role in managing the Brazos County 4-H program. As Office Manager, she leads all administrative tasks for the county Extension office that serves one of the largest 4-H programs in the state. She does an incredible job of communicating with 4-H families on the requirements and deadlines for a diverse set of 4-H activities. She has established herself as a reliable resource amongst County Extension Agents and fellow support staff. Her hard work is deserving of recognition as she is a true leader within Brazos County 4-H."



Jofran Edwards, District 8, Leon County - Commendable Service Award

"Jofran Edwards believes in the mission of the 4-H program! For many families, she is the first level of contact when they call or come into the office to find out how to get involved. Her enthusiasm for the program shines through! She also is a willing volunteer, serving as a club Clover Kid leader, as well as contest judge, both at the county and district levels. At the end of the day, she is one of the biggest cheerleaders in celebrating the success of Leon County 4-H members at all levels of competition and participation."



Lisa Wright, District 2, Hale County - Leader Legacy Award

"Lisa Wright, of Hale County 4-H, has dedicated thousands of hours to 4-H and the kids within it. She would not trade any of the late nights and early mornings, or miles put on pickups, for the world. She truly has made the best better for not only her club, community, country, but her world. The kids all love and respect her. She teaches them and makes it fun! She will do anything that is fun, such as riding a stick horse through the Christmas parade, to riding a real horse to Sonic for a Dr Pepper!"



Marcella Oden, District 2, Garza County - Leader Legacy Award

"I'm not a leader, but a helper," are words straight out of Marcella Oden's mouth. This is furthest from the truth. She started her volunteer career as a "master volunteer." In 2010, she took over as the Garza County 4-H club leader and in 2016 she kept the Garza County 4-H program alive when the county no longer had any agents. She goes the extra mile to make sure no kids are left out and each and every one feels special when they leave an event. Her love for the kids she serves is phenomenal. Garza County has been blessed with a volunteer almost beyond belief!"



Joan Gray-Soria, District 1, Carson County - Meritorious Service

"Joan has the heart of a servant. She has a willingness to go out of her comfort zone, even for just one 4-H member, and become certified as an Archery Coach. No one holds a candle to her hours and hours of dedication put into this program. Her passion for supporting and leading 4-H youth and families is extraordinary. She is adamant that kids have fun first, do their best, and learn something new at each 4-H event. Joan's dedication to teach life skills through the 4-H program is a great upheaval to the prevention of these skills becoming a lost art. These are just some of examples of why Joan Gray-Soria is a model candidate and most deserving of the Meritorious Service Award for 2023."



Luis Saldana, District 12 - Meritorious Service

"Luis Saldana began his career in December of 1991. In his almost 31 years in Extension, he has served in various roles, including County Extension Agent for Agriculture and for Urban Development, Regional Program Director for 4-H, and Extension Program Specialist – 4-H Youth Development for District 12. For almost 23 of his 31 years in Extension, he has been dedicated to the 4-H Youth Development program in the State of Texas. He has made significant contributions to the Texas 4-H Program throughout the years both personally and professionally. His passion for educating young people and volunteers shines in the work he does. He worked hard to create new and innovative ways to conduct events and activities that we have been hosting throughout the years to match our current clientele. Luis is the ultimate team player and jumps in to help his agents and fellow faculty members as needed. He has been committed to helping youth find their passion, helping others become an integral part of their community, and growing youth leaders."



Britney Campbell, District 9, Brazoria County - Texas 4-H Alumni

"Britney Campbell was one of the proudest Texas 4-H Council members in 2003, and since then has been sharing her love of the 4-H program with members near and far. 4-H taught Britney to be a leader. As a 4-H member, she was awarded both the "Danforth I Dare You" award as well as the "Gold Star" award. Her leadership skills continued to grow as she transitioned from a member to an adult volunteer. She has always remembered the impact 4-H has had on her life and she has been eager to give back. Britney has volunteered as a project leader within our county for over 10 years and she has served as the Alvin 4-H club manager for the past nine years."



Carlos David Alvarado, District 8, Coryell County - Texas 4-H Alumni

"David Alvarado took to heart everything our 4-H program teaches when it comes to service. You won't find him center stage; he is always working behind the scenes to make sure everything is running smoothly whether it is the sound system, the livestock scales, the electricity in the show barn, or the pipes in the wash rack. David can fix anything, and he uses his time and talents to serve in our community, not just as a 4-H leader, but also as a longtime volunteer firefighter and ten-year deacon of Eastwood Baptist Church. David has a servant's heart that has helped thousands of people in Coryell County."



Photo by: Kyler W., Brazos Co.

GRANTING OPPORTUNITY

Amigas Para Niños

Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship Donors



The youth of Texas 4-H have benefitted from the generosity of Texas 4-H Foundation partners since 1962. Texas 4-H alumni have become doctors, lawyers, astronauts, and more thanks to the education made possible by Texas 4-H Foundation scholarships. The 4-H scholarship donors create opportunities for youth.

Sharleen Walkoviak, Treasurer of Amigas Para Niños in Houston, Texas, recently shared about her experience as a new 4-H scholarship donor in 2023.

According to amigasparaninos.org, the group, formed in 1993, works to “provide opportunities, encourage participation and reward achievements to youth with financial needs, affiliated with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo or other agricultural or art educational programs in the State of Texas.”

Q: What is the name of the scholarship you support and how long have you supported that scholarship?

A: We support the Amigas Para Niños 4-H Courageous Heart Scholarships. This included 5 new scholarships for the 2023 – 2024 school year.

Q: Why do you choose to give back to 4-H youth in Texas?

A: Amigas Para Niños believes in the power of education, and we are convinced that deserving students should have the opportunity for higher education, whether it's college, a trade school or other professional program. Not every family can afford college and we want to help those students where we can.

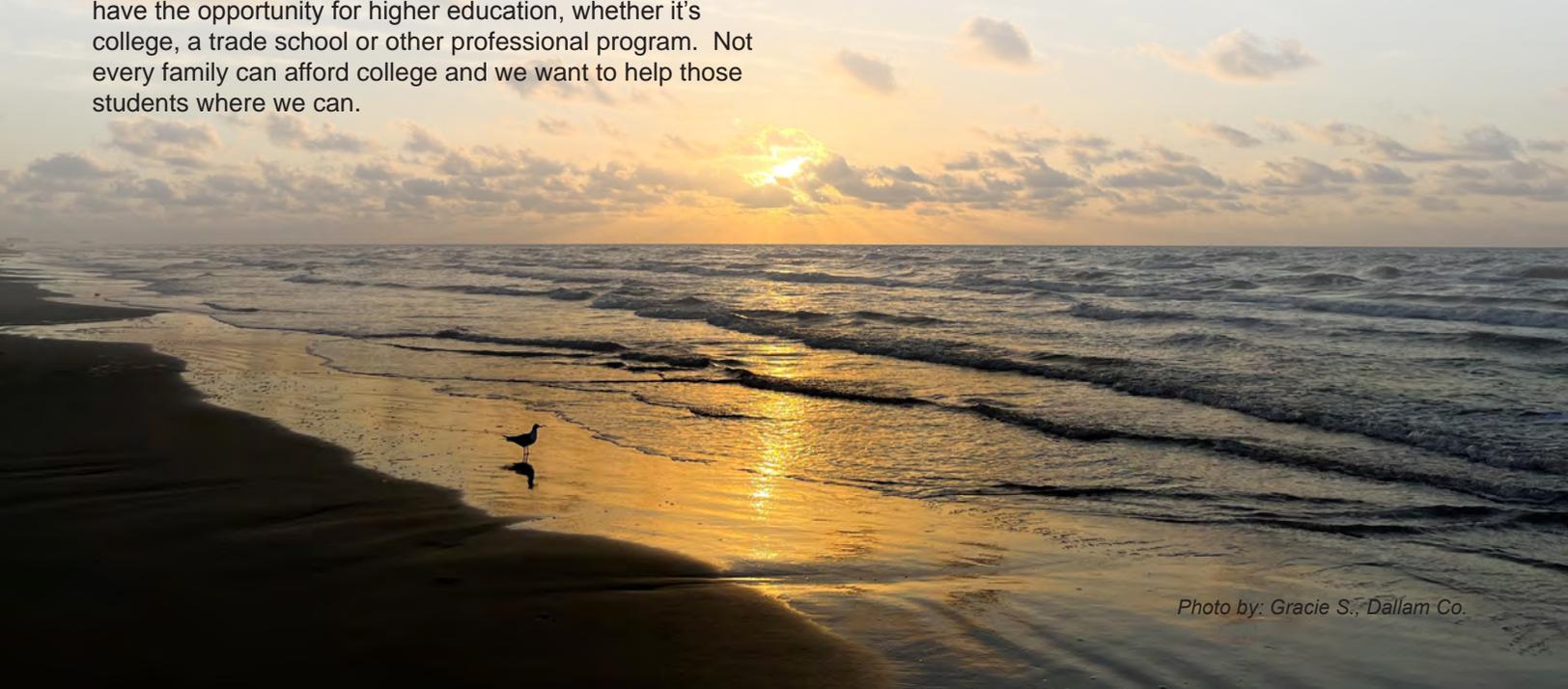
Q: Have you met any of your scholarship recipients? If so, what stood out to you about them?

A: Yes, I have met all 5 and they are wonderful, driven students who are dedicated to their studies and to making the world a better place.

Q: What are the benefits of the 4-H program that make you want to provide scholarships within 4-H?

A: Having been involved with the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo for years, our Amigas membership has met countless 4-H youth. Clearly, 4-H gives students a solid foundation in presentation, teamwork and leadership skills and there aren't any students with a better work ethic than those in 4-H.

To learn more about the Texas 4-H Foundation scholarship program or how to give back to 4-H youth, visit <https://texas4hfoundation.org/> or contact David White at david.white@ag.tamu.edu.





TEXAS 4- H FOUNDATION FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Thank you to everyone who gave directly to the youth of Texas 4-H through the 4-H Foundation in 2022-2023. For more information about finances, contact David White: david.white@ag.tamu.edu.

TOTAL REVENUE \$ \$2,779,615.63

DONATIONS \$ \$1,674,460.39

SCHOLARSHIP DONORS  45 INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS \$ \$352,955.97

GRANTS AWARDED  21 TO COUNTY PROGRAMS

GRANT TOTAL \$ \$48,500





GRATITUDE & PLANS

Bax Edwards: A Texas 4-H Scholar

When a donor supports a scholarship for a Texas 4-H youth, they trust it will be placed in the hands of someone who will put those funds to good use. Someone who has proven their ability to pursue a passion and succeed.

Bax Edwards, a recent Lubbock County 4-H alumni, received a Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation scholarship from the Fort Worth Stock Show Syndicate in June 2023.

“I was in 4-H since I was in the third grade and I participated in a lot of different projects, but my main projects throughout high school were the livestock project where I participated in exhibiting both breeding gilts and market goats and Livestock Judging,” Edwards said. “And then my other projects include food and nutrition, public speaking, and wildlife and fisheries.”

Edwards found his passion in Livestock Judging, heavily influencing his next steps in life. Edwards is now a student at South Plains College, beginning his collegiate career while participating on the Livestock Judging team.

“After I graduate from South Plains with my associate degree in animal business, I plan to get a bachelor’s degree at Texas Tech University in Animal Business.” Edwards said. “From there, I plan to attend Vet school in Amarillo, at the Texas Tech Vet School.”

4-H development is far more than just projects or contests. Edwards found benefit in 4-H beyond just his developed passion for agriculture.

“One of the main things it’s brought me is friendships,” Edwards said. “It’s taught me how to go out there and make friends and it’s really helped me communicate with other people and have a conversation.”

One life skill commonly shared amongst 4-H alumni is learning the value of hard work and determination.

“Throughout my projects, I always tried to work my hardest and do the best I could,” Edwards said. “I knew at the end of the day, no matter how I did in whatever project or contest I was competing in or participating in, that I always gave 110% and that’s something 4-H has taught me that I feel like I’ll use for the rest of my life.”

Like many 4-H alumni, Edwards will take his 4-H memories, skills learned, and passion forward in his future.

“It’s something that I really do hold truly dear to my heart. I love 4-H and everything that it has taught me.” Edwards said. “So, I’m super grateful for 4-H and what it does for the youth of Texas.”



A young Bax enjoying Texas 4-H Camp.



The youth who receive 4-H scholarships are expected to uphold quality grades and a positive image. The donors of 4-H scholarships set high standards for 4-H youth, who always rise to the occasion.

“That money is going to help me further my education within the agricultural industry and enable me to really give back to 4-H in any way that I can throughout college.” Edwards said. “So, I can’t express my gratitude enough for the money that they’re providing me to be able to further my education, and for believing in me as an individual to be able to use that money the right way.”

If you would like to grant more youth, like Bax Edwards, immense opportunity by supporting Texas 4-H members, please check out texas4hfoundation.org or reach out to texas4hfoundation@ag.tamu.edu.

Banana Split Grilled Dessert Nachos

Elyse T., Runnels County, District 7, Healthy Dessert | Prep time 25 minutes, cook time 15 minutes

- 1 cup thinly sliced strawberries
- 3 T 100% pure fruit seedless strawberry jelly
- 2 Flatout flatbreads
- all-natural nonstick cooking spray or sprayed canola oil
- 1 t brown sugar
- 1/4 t cinnamon
- 4 “planks” fresh pineapple (cut from about half of a peeled, cored fresh pineapple)
- 1 banana, unpeeled, cut crosswise and then lengthwise into 4 “planks”
- 1/4 cup mini chocolate chips
- 1/4 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1 T honey
- 1/4 t vanilla
- 1/8 t cream of tartar

1. Prepare and preheat grill.
2. In a small bowl, stir together strawberries and jelly. Set aside. (The longer you let this sit, the more liquid-y your strawberry sauce will become.)
3. Lightly spray both sides of each Flatout with cooking spray. Sprinkle each side with 1/4 teaspoon of brown sugar and then 1/16 teaspoon of cinnamon, using your fingers to lightly rub the sugar and cinnamon to distribute them evenly across the flatbreads. Grill the flatbreads over medium heat for about 2 minutes per side, just until they begin to turn golden brown and grill marks form. Remove the flatbreads to a cutting board and immediately cut them into triangular “nacho chips” as shown in the photo in the post above. The chips will continue to get crispier as they sit. Set chips aside.
6. Lay pineapple “planks” crosswise on grill grates and close the lid. Turn pineapple occasionally to develop grill marks on all sides, which should take about 8-10 minutes.
7. In the last few minutes of grilling, add unpeeled bananas to the grill, peel side up and crosswise on grates. Grill bananas on flesh side only, just until gently warmed with sear marks. Remove fruit from grill, and (as soon as it’s cool enough to safely handle) peel bananas and cut fruit into thin slices.
9. While pineapple and bananas are grilling, pour heavy whipping cream, honey, vanilla, and cream of tartar into the bowl and whisk on high speed until stiff peaks form, about 1 minute
10. Layer “nacho chips,” strawberry sauce, grilled fruit slices, and chocolate chips. Serve immediately and enjoy with homemade cool whip.



Beet, Tomato, and Feta Salad

Naomi Macmanus, Cameron County, District 12, Side Dish | Servings: 6

- 4 small-sized red beets, diced
- 1 cup water
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 large tomato, chopped
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 cup baby arugula
- 2 ounces reduced-fat feta cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

1. Cut the tops off the beets. Wash and rub dirt from the beets and dry well.
2. Add water into pot to boil on high heat. Add beets into the pot once boiling and steam until beets are fork-tender, about 30 minutes. Transfer beets onto a cutting board and allow to cool slightly.
3. Using a paper towel, rub the skins off the beets. Dice the beets into bite sized pieces.
4. Combine the olive oil, mustard, balsamic vinegar, salt, and pepper in a bowl with a whisk. Add beets and tomatoes to the dressing and toss to coat.
5. On a serving platter, place the arugula in the center and transfer beet and tomato mixture over the bed of arugula. Crumble feta cheese over salad. Garnish with arugula. Drizzle more dressing if desired.



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TEXAS 4-H CENTER

2022-2023



You're invited
TEXAS 4-H CENTER
50TH ANNIVERSARY
APRIL 13, 2024

The Texas 4-H Center is located on scenic Lake Brownwood. The Center is home to summer camps for all kids, and many other events throughout the year, including non-4-H events! Upgrades to the 4-H Center this past year included a new sand volleyball court, new and improved athletic courts to include pickle ball and other various games, amphitheater, High Ropes Challenge Course, and added 3 “glamping” sites. Special thanks to our sponsors for making 4-H camp a quality place for kids to spend their summer growing into well-equipped young people.

96 TOTAL EVENTS
INCLUDING 4-H AND NON
4-H EVENTS

MORE THAN 6,000
TOTAL VISITORS TO THE CENTER

17 ROAD SHOWS
INTERACTIVE EDUCATION/CAMP PROMOTION
AT DISTRICT AND COUNTY 4-H EVENTS.

One recent 4-H Center review includes:

“I love this 4-H Conference Center, having attended camps there myself from elementary school through graduation. Now I enjoy taking my own children to camps, retreats, and trainings there throughout the year. It has been well maintained and updated through the years.”

To learn more about the 4-H Center and how you can get involved, contact the Center Director:
Melvin Atkinson | melvin.atkinson@ag.tamu.edu | 325-784-5482



GIVING BACK & RECONNECTING

Angie Carver:
Clover Club Member

The Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation introduced the Clover Club in 2021, bringing together Friends and Alumni in support of Texas 4-H youth and programs. Through financial contributions and participation in various Texas 4-H opportunities, these friends and alumni of 4-H offer their support.

Angie Carver is an active Clover Club member, and 4-H Mom, from Abernathy, Texas, who recently shared a little bit about why she is choosing to reconnect with 4-H.

Q: When and where did you participate in 4-H as a member, and what did you participate in?

A: My mom was a county agent, so I never knew life without 4-H. I participated in Runnels County, which is in District 7. My main projects were Clothing & Textiles, Food & Nutrition, Public Speaking, and Leadership & Citizenship. I was on Texas 4-H Council, represented Texas 4-H at a National Textile Symposium in North Carolina, and represented Texas at Purina Mills Youth Leadership Conference.

Q: Why did you choose to participate in the Clover Club?

A: People tend to gravitate towards things they enjoy and things they are passionate about. I am passionate about passing along what I have gained to others. I often tell my kids that learning things is great, but what good are they if we are not willing to share them with others. I had lots of mentors who invested in me, and I want to do that for others. Clover Club is one way to invest in our future.

Q: How is the alumni program supporting current 4-H youth?

A: My immediate answer would be the financial backing from so many generous donors. However, it is deeper than just throwing a signed check to the organization and the youth involved in it. These donors recognize something different about these youth and they want to be a part of helping them be the best version of themselves. These youth are the politicians, CEOs, medical experts, and public relations leaders of tomorrow. Who wouldn't want to make sure they were investing in their future?

Q: How did you see the benefits of 4-H impact you beyond your years as a member?

A: While growing up in 4-H, I never quite understood the impact it would have on my future life. From the network of industry leaders to government officials and beyond, I have gained a group of influential people that I can call on as friends, business partners, or mentors. I did not truly appreciate the hours spent preparing for contests or speeches to be given during my 4-H years until I hit college and realized how each activity was teaching a skill set that would be beneficial daily. Now, I am watching my kids utilize what they gained in 4-H as they are navigating college and preparing to begin their careers. I am proud to say 4-H molded them into what they are today - success driven, respectful, and trustworthy young adults!

To join the Texas 4-H alumni program, check out <https://texas4hfoundation.org/how-to-join/> or contact texas4hfoundation@ag.tamu.edu.

The Texas 4-H Foundation hosts the Clover Club Gala during Texas 4-H Roundup each year. This event raises crucial funds for Texas 4-H programs throughout the year. The 2024 event will be held at the Zone Club at Kyle Field on June 6, 2024. Learn more about the event at <https://texas4hfoundation.org/clover-club-gala/> or contact texas4hfoundation@ag.tamu.edu to learn more. There is also opportunity to donate to the live or silent auction.

TEXAS 4-H FOUNDATION CLOVER CLUB

Gala



2024 EVENT:
JUNE 6TH @
KYLE FIELD



2023 CLOVER CLUB GALA OUTCOMES

235

ATTENDEES

\$91,163

NET GAIN

JUNE 8

COLLEGE STATION

Sponsored by:

Schaefer Outfitter, Capital Farm Credit and the Van Matre Family

Special Recognition at the event:

Salute to Excellence Alumni Recipient – Britney Campbell; Hall of Fame Inductees Richard Ligon & Helen Piehl; and Director Emeritus Steve Pringle, Debbie Dreyfus Schronk & Linlea Shelby

2022-
2023

TEXAS 4-H FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

The Foundation Development Districts were created in 2021 as a way to raise funding for District and County level 4-H programs. These FDDs are led by volunteers or supporters in that area. Each FDD is charged with hosting a fundraiser that will raise money for youth. Note: FDD alignments have changed for the 2023-2024 4-H year respective to the AgriLife Extension Regions.

In the 22-23 year, there were four FDD events held across the state.

FDD 5 (supporting 4-H Districts 7&8)

20 GUN RAFFLE \$ \$20,718

FDD 4 (supporting 4-H Districts 5&9)

4-H ON THE FAIRWAY \$ \$124,428

FDD 1 (supporting 4-H Districts 3&4)

CLOVER CLASSIC \$ \$12,010

FDD 2 (supporting 4-H Districts 1&2)

RAFFLE \$ \$12,295



20 GUNS DAYS 

Support programs, scholarships, and grant opportunities for Texas 4-H Districts 7 and 8!
<https://texas4hfoundation.rallyup.com/20guns20days>

1000	Raffle Tickets Available
\$100	Per Ticket
20	Guns to be raffled over 20 days

CONNECT WITH US

ALLIANCE PROGRAMS



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PROGRAM: @TEXAS4H



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WEBSITES

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2022-2023 TEXAS

4-H VOLUNTEERS



SHAPE YOUTH SUCCESS



TOTAL
VOLUNTEERS

15,046

696,963

DONATED
HOURS



APPROXIMATELY
VALUED AT

\$20.8 BILLION

Texas 4-H clubs and activities provide a safe space for youth and adults to have fun while learning together.

4X

more likely to
give back to their
communities

2X

more likely to
make healthier
choices

2X

more likely to
participate in
STEM activities

A photograph of a field of yellow wildflowers in bloom. The flowers are in the foreground and middle ground, with some in sharp focus and others blurred. The background is a bright, hazy sky, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is warm and serene.

Bloom
in Texas 4-7