Texas 4-H Membership

2018-2019

557,003 YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

30,191 VOLUNTEERS

STEM 12,138
Natural Resources 53,853
Agriculture & Livestock 94,494
Leadership & Citizenship 47,241
Family & Community Health 226,861
Ag in the Classroom 255,094

285,007 Hispanic/latino
271,996 non-hispanic/latino

276,443 male
280,560 female

4% Farm
20% Towns & cities 10-50,000
25% Rural towns
51% suburbs & cities over 50,000

Design by Mackenzie Weadock
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Let’s Get Started...
Together, the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program and Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation are pleased to release the 2018-2019 annual report. While this report only provides a glimpse into the program activities and accomplishments over the past year, we hope you will discover the richness of experiences and the positive impact the program is having in the lives of almost 500,000 youth throughout the state of Texas.

The impacts made in the lives of youth because of 4-H would not be possible without the hard work and countless hours given by County Extension Agents and local volunteers. The positive relationships fostered among these caring adults and youth are what catapults the positive youth development process and lead youth to be productive and contributing members of local communities.

The numerous programs and opportunities afforded to youth would only be a dream for many without generous donors, sponsors and partners. The financial support provided to the 4-H Foundation to support youth programs is appreciated and helps us achieve the 4-H motto, to make the best better, by offering new opportunities, growing existing program, and exploring new opportunities to reach underserved audiences. The vast $2.5 million scholarship program facilitated through the Texas 4-H Foundation is unmatched to any other 4-H program because of your dedication to the program.

As we celebrate the program’s accomplishments, we also look to the future that will be filled with long-standing partnerships as well as new friendships and opportunities that will benefit the youth of Texas. Thank you for your support of the largest positive youth development program in the state and nation, and we hope you will continue to support our programming efforts in the future.

As we celebrate the program’s accomplishments we also acknowledge the achievements of Dr. Courtney Dodd, 4-H Program Director who implemented her vision to successfully advance our 4-H programs and continues her leadership as she now serves as the AgriLife Extension Associate Director for Health, Families and Youth Programs. We welcome Dr. Montza Williams who continues his long-standing career with extension as he assumes the role as our new Texas 4-H Youth Development Program director. We also welcome David White to our team as he assumed the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program Executive Director in 2019. Our future is bright as we embrace our long-standing partnerships, as well as develop new friendships and opportunities that will benefit the youth of Texas. Thank you for your support of the largest positive youth development program in the state and nation, and we hope you will continue to support our programming efforts in the future.

Sincerely,

David White
Executive Director
Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation

Courtney Dodd, PhD
Associate Director for Health, Families and Youth Programs
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.
“I stand here today in front of you because of God’s grace and my 4-H family. I stand here today to say thank you to those of you who prayed for me, and visited me, and kept my family strong. I stand here to say thank you and how thankful I am to all of you who kept my family going, and kept them from losing their business, our home, and our good name. I’m here today to tell you that whatever obstacles life puts in your way don’t let that bring you down. Keep going and push through them. Find the strength inside you that you never even knew you had and let it make you stronger than you ever were before. It’s not what happens to you that makes you who you are, it’s how you respond to it. Don’t spend your time thinking about what could have happened, instead, start pushing toward what can be. Never believe that you are limited in what you can do because if it can’t be done one way, then just get around it and find another way to get it done. Use your head, your heart, your hands, and your health to make the world a better place because that’s what y’all have pledged to do. Remember that you are not alone and you never have to do it all by yourself.”

– Trevor Martinez

Trevor Martinez is a teenage 4-H member in District 12 and the current Jim Wells County Council President. Trevor Martinez is also wise beyond his years and a living example of resilience and strength.

“A year ago, I was here at Roundup competing again and even here on this stage for the first time,” Martinez said. “I left College Station feeling like I could conquer anything, a month later, that world shifted for me.”

Two months in hospitals, one month in a Ronald McDonald House, chemically induced comas, trauma centers, more than 20 surgeries and procedures, skin grafts, a titanium rod, a prosthetic left leg after his was amputated just below the knee, tons of therapy, and one very strong young man make Martinez who he is today.

“On the morning of July 18th last year [2018] I suffered a gun-shot wound to my leg that broke my femur and severely injured my left foot,” Martinez said. “First responders came and stabilized me but I was not really aware of too much. I was told Highway 281 was closed down so the Halo Flight Helicopter could land on it and...
take me to the closest level 2 trauma center in the Valley. My first helicopter ride and I wasn’t even awake for most of it. I didn’t even know when they flew me to San Antonio to the Level 1 trauma center.”

Martinez stood in front of thousands at the 2019 Texas 4-H Roundup to share his overcomer story, but made a clear emphasis that his focus that evening was not himself or his story, but rather his 4-H family and opportunity to say “thank you”.

“4-H isn’t just a club or a set of competitions, it’s so much more than that,” Martinez said. “My world changed in one second and 4-H helped me get through it; before that day, I was lending my hands to larger service, after that day I became the one being helped.”

Martinez said that his 4-H family started praying and rushing right into help immediately after finding out what happened on July 18th, noting that as he underwent his first surgery, his District 12 4-H Specialist, Luis Saldana, and his county agent’s Mom sat with his parents the entire time.

“I didn’t know it but so many people from our club and county were making trips down to the valley to try and help; Mom says I had visitors nearly every single day,” Martinez said. “When one 4-H family is hurting, another 4-H family comes and comforts because that’s what families do for each other.”

Martinez said that even when he couldn’t have visitors in the trauma centers, his 4-H family still came, dropping off card and gifts and sharing prayers, comfort, and high hopes with his parents, but the 4-H generosity didn’t stop there.

“I used to wonder when we were making cards for the soldiers in the veterans’ hospitals if it ever made a difference to them, but now I know that they do,” Martinez said. “My parents didn’t know it, but people were also feeding our animals with donated feed, cutting our grass to keep the weeds from taking over our home, holding fundraisers to help us get by, making trips back and forth to San Antonio, and so much more.”

Martinez extended a special thank you to his “4-H Mom”, County Extension Agent Barbie Wymore, for her generosity over the past year, noting particularly her many visits during those three months away from home saying, “I don’t know how many times she visited me, but I know she could make it there faster than anyone else.”

“When I couldn’t make it back home to have our new county officers retreat, she brought all of them to me at the Ronald McDonald house in San Antonio,” Martinez said. “Even just one day after I got my prosthetic we were out serving at the Feast of Sharing in Corpus Christi, TX and she was keeping us busy, she never left me out.”
Martinez noted that Wymore’s answer was always “we’ll make it work” and because of that he completed several 4-H projects this year, got to attend his county banquet via Skype, and even got to show his own chickens at the county fair.

“Between Barbie and my 4-H family, I’ve been able to keep on going strong, and that’s something I plan to keep on doing,” Martinez said. “I will make my mark on this world just as 4-H has made its mark on me.”

Martinez used his platform that evening at Roundup not to speak of himself and his challenges, but rather to thank his 4-H family, share his gratitude to the program, and encourage the crowd to “notice the people that make up your 4-H family.”

“So here I stand today nearly one day away from that day that changed my world, much stronger, more determined, and a much more hard-working 4-H’er than ever,” Martinez said. “In this great big state of Texas, there might be over 65,000 4-H members, there might be 12 districts, there might be 4 H’s on that big clover, but we’re all one big family after all.”

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Sign up to recieve our weekly email updates at texas4-h.tamu.edu. Click on “This Week in Texas 4-H”
Meet Them Where They Are: Champion Schools

628%. That number represents the 4-H membership increase Gregg County 4-H experienced in 2018-2019.

“The 4-H program here in Gregg County is growing in leaps and bounds,” Gregg County 4-H agent Arvitta Scott said.

A large portion of that increase is due to one of Scott’s first projects in her new agent role, the Champion 4-H Club they chartered as a recognized 4-H club in Ware Elementary.

“All of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are enrolled and they are 4-H members,” Scott said. “We’re just excited to be here with these kiddos and teaching them new things about what we have in 4-H.”

Scott worked with the Ware Elementary principal and staff to establish a set time during the school day to provide 4-H curriculum and opportunities. The partnership started with allowing all of the students to participate in yoga as well as the food and nutrition project.

“Gregg County 4-H Master Gardeners are the ones who sponsored their enrollment fee,” Scott said. “We want to say thank you to everybody who has contributed in some way, some form, or fashion.”

As their semester of learning about food and nutrition was ending, Scott and the Gregg County Family and Community Health agent, Mandy Patrick, decided they wanted to allow their 250 new 4-H members to put their newly learned skills to the test, engaging each student in a Food Challenge contest, an opportunity many of the underserved youth in the county would not experience otherwise.

“I saw their faces as they were coming in, they saw that it was really happening, that the equipment was up, then we hit that go button, and you know it was chaos but it was the best kind of chaos,” Patrick said. “It was fun, planning these things and getting to go in and see the kids learning things and see how much they changed from January all the way until May.”

Patrick said it “makes her excited to see the kids excited” about learning and that that alone makes the work worth it. Scott emphasized that the benefit of having the Gregg County 4-H program in the school is the opportunity to reach more youth because they are meeting the kids right where they already are.

For more information on starting a champion school club, supporting a local program, or finding one for your child to join, please contact the Texas 4-H office at 979-845-1211 or texas4h@ag.tamu.edu. Information about projects and membership can be found online texas4-h.tamu.edu.
What is Roundup?
Texas 4-H Roundup is a three-day qualifying and invitational event for 4-H youth. It provides an opportunity to recognize 4-H members for their achievements. Workshop opportunities are also offered for both youth and adults. This event is planned and coordinated in part by the Texas 4-H Council and the STEM Ambassadors. Texas 4-H Roundup is the largest event held by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program. Texas 4-H Roundup is held annually in June in College Station, Texas and is the largest gathering of 4-H members and supporters in the country, including more than 4,000 youth, volunteers and leaders.

What is the value?

2019 marked the 73rd year that Texas 4-H has hosted Texas 4-H Roundup. This year’s theme was “Make your Mark”. This year’s roundup also allowed Texas 4-H to celebrate 60 years of awarding our Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarships. This year 220 youth were awarded a combined total of $2.5 million dollars in higher education scholarships.

The top five most important life skills youth said they gained from participating in a contest during Texas 4-H Roundup include:

1. Self-esteem/confidence
2. Teamwork
3. Responsibility
4. Communication
5. Public Speaking & Sportsmanship (tied)

Comments

99% of respondents stated they had fun at the 2019 Texas 4-H Roundup. (Youth only response)

91% of respondents were completely or mostly satisfied with the 2019 Texas 4-H Roundup. (Adult & Youth response)

"The atmosphere was terrific. It felt professional and respectful to all who were involved. I think everyone enjoyed the ability to communicate with others from the entire state and share opinions on different subjects, as well as their personal journey with 4-H."

"This was my 1st year to attend Roundup ever, so there was so much to take in. I love how friendly everyone was. I am very shy and don’t make friends easily, so it was nice to have people be so kind. I also really enjoy how alive everything was."

"I like the educational experiences offered to youth and the invitational contests so people can try a contest out."
Join us for the 2020 Texas 4-H Roundup
June 8-11, 2020 in College Station, TX!
Texas 4-H Roundup College Station, TX!
2019 Roundup First Place Winners

Agriculture Product Identification Int.  Klaybour Eschberger – Individual
Brazos County – Team: Amanda Dean, Grayson Simpson, Zachary Smith, Kyler Wendt

Animal Science – Educational Presentation  Chloe McLellan

Archery  Compound Aided Sr.  Quentin Noeke

Recurve Sr.  Johnathon Gooch

Barebow Sr.  Nathaniel Savage

Compound Unaided Sr.  Jarrell Sullivan

NASC Genesis Sr.  Aubree Harp

Compound Aided Int.  Bayli Honeycutt

Recurve Int.  Rebekka Ruzvidzo

Barebow Int.  Kolton Brady

Compound Unaided Int.  Bryce Parish

NASC Genesis Int.  Tymer Reust

Agricultural Technology & Farm Safety – Educational Presentation  Cole Rappolee and James Bodine

Beef Quiz Bowl  Mack Lawrence – Individual
Austin County – Team: Garrett Melnar, Hunter Schumann, Lee Michalik, Samantha Diez

Beef – Educational Presentation  Jadan Butler and Kelly Thomas

Consumer Decision Making  Joseph Gerlach – Individual
Lubbock County – Team: Alyssa Elmore, Ashlyn Messer, Audrey Crawford, Michael Chatoukipa


Discover Scientific Method: Science, Engineering & Tech. Poster Competition (Seniors)  Kevin Pagel

Duds to Dazzle  Accessory/Jewelry
Hidalgo County – Anna Vela, Ashlyn Martinez, Eleri Drewry

Non-Wearable  Wharton County – Erica George, Leslie Zahn, Zoey Zahn

Wearable  Nueces County – Gianna Ginding, Halya Charba, Madeleine Guiding, Margaret Ridley

Final Challenge  Nueces County – Gianna Ginding, Halya Charba, Madeleine Guiding, Margaret Ridley

Entomology Collection (Seniors)  Megan Kopkei – Individual

Entomology Collection (Intermediates)  Finnian Pendergrass

Entomology Identification (Seniors)  Alan De Gorostiza – Individual
Bexar County – Team: Abby Hartley, Ethan Kemmitz, Madison Vanvanderveen

Entomology Identification (Intermediate)  Aligan Di Georgezita – Individual

Fashion Show  Buying – Business Interview Attire  Audrey Crawford

Buying – Fashionable Fashions Under $25  Payton Holcomb

Buying – Semi-Formal to Formal  Denae Kocman

Buying – Special Interest  Reagan Hoelscher

Construction – Everyday Living  Madeleine Guiding

Construction – Refashion  Adaline Utley

Construction – Semi-Formal to Formal  Grace Pohl

Natural Fiber – Cotton  Emily Robinson

Natural Fiber – Wool  Ashlyn Martinez

Stacie McDonald Learny Fashion & Interior Design Award  Emily Robinson, Reagan Hoelscher, Holle Cartu, Payton Holcomb

Trashion Fashion  Kadenze Mowry – Individual

Wearable  Maranda Haschke – Individual

Accessory  Laura Zabdi – Individual

Jewelry  Alexis Meyerhoff – Individual

Pet Clothing  Andrea Robison – Individual

Home Décor  Madeleine Guiding – Individual

Home Furnishing  Lindee Miller – Individual

Food Challenge  Nutritious Snacks
Tom Green County – Team: Elise Countess, Rigin Keltos, Kristen Schwartz, Halli Hanna

Bread & Cereal  Angelina County – Team: Holden Bouwrale, Taylor Castillo, Blake Minshaw

Fruit & Vegetable  Knox County – Team: Corrie Earthen, Shaun Earthen, Morgan Earthen, Bryanne Cude

Main Dish  Guadalupe County – Team: Taylor Maberry, Kaleb Herfurth, Camryn Elley, Karson Kelso

Final Challenge  Tom Green County – Team: Elise Countess, Rigin Keltos, Kristen Schwartz, Halli Hanna

Food Show  Breads and Cereals  Luke Fowler

Fruits and Vegetables  Logan Baker

Main Dish  Mason Cave

Nutritious Snacks  Allie Treadwell

Health & Wellness – Educational Presentation  Tom Green County – Caroline Holtman, Mark Holtman

Healthy lifestyles Invitational (Seniors)  Ashley Scribner – Individual
Denton County – Team: Christian Dietrich, Erik Dietrich, Hannah Mohr, Jacob Mayfield

Healthy lifestyles Invitational (Intermediate)  Joseph Hollass – Individual
Milam County – Team: Joseph Hollass, Klaybourne Eschberger, Macy McDaniel

Healthy lifestyles Swastakes  Tom Green County

Hippology (Seniors)  Caitlyn Teel – Individual
Collin County – Team: Abigail Taylor, Caitlyn Teel, Faith Bollenger, Charlee Proctor

Hippology (Intermediates)  Lily Kiffith – Individual
Lubbock County – Team: David Kendrick, Delaney Kleinman, Gracie Potter

Horse – Educational Presentation  Audrey Ratliff

Horse Quiz Bowl  Anelise Wilson – Individual
Denton County – Team: Anelise Wilson, Delany Simonds, Kar/Mari Pieters, Melanie Gregory

Horse Judging  Rylee McKinney – Individual
Wise County – Team: Abigail Newbold, Angelina Newbold, Austin Stephens, Emily Stephens

Indoor Rifle Match  Malori Brown – Individual
Dallam County – Team: Bailey Dettle, Maize McMurry, JB Stiegal

Invitational Livestock Judging Contest (Seniors)  Hudson Lee – Individual
Brown County – Team: Madeline Adams, Ashlyn Adams, Blaze Cozart, Hayden Schroeder

Invitational Livestock Judging Contest (Intermediates)  Miranda Skagg – Individual
Brazos County – Team: Kyler Wendt, Luke Sanders, Miranda Skagg, Taylor Colvin

Invitational Meat Judging (Seniors)  Nathan Kehr – Individual
Brazos County – Team: Nathan Kehr, Zane Witt

Invitational Meat Judging (Intermediates)  Kelsey Pfeiffer – Individual
Kendal County – Team: Emma Zoeller, Kelsey Pfeiffer

Leaders 4 Life  Guadalupe County – Team: Camryn Elley, Janae Braune, Kaleb Herfurth, Kali Kimble, Karson Kelso, Shannon Anderson

Livelock Skill-A-Thon (Senior)  Kendra Pfeiffer – Individual
Kendal County – Team: Anna Wyle, Caroline Holmes, Kellen Pfeiffer, Kendra Pfeiffer

Brazos County – Team: Miranda Skagg, Luke Sanders, Taylor Colvin

Livestock Swastakes  Guadalupe County

Mohair Judging and Evaluation  Cole Levien – Individual
Kimble County – Team: Braddy Robertson, Cole Levien, Quentin Schulze, Tyler Hill

Nutrition Quiz Bowl  Bailey Lyon – Individual
Collin County – Team: Armand Rathgeb, Brett Schraeder, Carolina Duke, Collin Callagher

Open – Agriculture & Natural Resources Educational Presentation  Oldham County – Csi Harman, J/Csi Faith Petti

Open – Family & Community Health Educational Presentation  Kyler Hardegree

Open Educational Presentation  Reuben Stecher

Photography Judging (Seniors)  Andree Hale – Individual
Wise County – Team: Gabriel Rueda, Joseph Gerlach, Layton Chancellour

Photography Judging (Intermediate)  Anna-Laura Whitaker – Individual
Wise County – Team: Henry Oberg, James Meeks, Macoy Lichleifer

Public Speaking  Maxi Wisdom

Qualifying Livestock Judging  Kyle Real – Individual
Sterling County – Team: Gage Hogan, Gunner Coburn, Gus McCombs, Tate Hogan

Qualifying Meat Judging and Identification  Caroline Holmes – Individual
Gillette County – Team: Ashley Hahn, Bethany Crenwelge, Carson Crenwelge, Daniel Raab

Range & Pasture Grass Identification  Jacob Johnson – Individual
Kerr County – Team: Jacob Johnson, Stephen Chmiel, Brooke Mesmer, Kyna Stephens

Range Evaluation  Davis Mathews – Individual
Comal County – Team: Davis Mathews, Keene Kreusler, Kylie Edwards

Robotics Challenge (Seniors)  Denton County – Team: Elliott Agnew, Jacob Mayfield

Robotics Challenge (Intermediates)  Halton County – Team: Emilio Gray, Landson Thompson, Ryan Jones

Safety & Injury Prevention  Castro County – Bryson High and Krsti McAlister

Share the Fun  Choreographed Routines  Hays County – Team: Chendee Lener, Hunter Savage-Pierce, Rebekah Daniel, Ty Dahistrom, Jacey Cano, Mia Cariaga, Hayden Luge, Joseph Nino

Dramedy  Brown County – Jessica Dennis, Stacen Hinton

Poetry/Prose  Elyssa Rodriguez

Vocal  Caroline Sexton

Celebrate 4-H  Cooke County – Team: Cameron Trammell, Clara Raabe, Geordan Spate, Jacqueline Smith, Kateyn McCormick, Michelle Blakesley, Nathan Huston, Rachel Samek, Theresa Wyrcik

Musical/instrumental  Knox County – Team: Corrie Earthen, Morgan Earthen, Shawn Earthen

Solo/Band Performance  Jessalyn Anderson

Swine Quiz Bowl (Seniors)  Christopher McLaughlin – Individual
Wichita County – Team: Kirsten Polk, Montana Lehman, Tatum Alexander, Taybor Eastep

Swine Quiz Bowl (Intermediates)  Cara Newsome – Individual
Fort Bend County – Team: Claire Todd, Nolan Wendt, Jessalyn Gregory, Joseph Bryan

Soil Judging (Seniors)  Kelbi Lindley – Individual
Hall County – Team: Javan Valle, Jac Ferrel, Kelbi Lindley, McKenzie Lopez

Soil Judging (Intermediates)  Conner Pence, Kelly Stidhem

Soil Judging (Intermediate)  Nahalie Crenwelge, Carson Crenwelge, Daniel Raab

Wildlife Challenge (Seniors)  Davis Mathews – Individual
Comal County – Team: Davis Mathews, Nahalie Stidhem

Wildlife Challenge (Intermediate)  Dyian Wunderlich – Individual
Karahan County – Team: Blake Pellen, Brelena Broyles, Dylan Wunderlich

Vet Science Skill-a-Thon Level 1  Julia Karg

Vet Science Skill-a-Thon Level 2  Angelina Newbold

Texas 4-H Annual Report 18-19
NEW TO 2019...

LEAD Academy & At-Large Delegates
What a great start to something new! LEAD Academy was a new idea that came to life in 2019 in conjunction with Texas 4-H Roundup as a way to offer educational opportunities to members and families who may or may not participate in that traditional 4-H summertime event. The event is a way to encourage members to participate in a state level “conference” and have the opportunity to tour a college campus while meeting students and faculty members. The focus of LEAD is to offer 4-H members and families an experience to learn about college opportunities and what it takes to get there, serve their community, and gain valuable life skills in a true college setting. Because of the focus, participants must be in the 8th – 12th grades and register through the 4HConnect registration system.

Three objectives guided the planning and facilitation of LEAD Academy.

• Engage youth in hands-on educational activities in which they explore, practice and master existing and newly developed skills/knowledge in civic engagement, civic education and personal development.

• Provide youth a broad-based learning experience in which they will acquire practical knowledge and skills to reinforce the attitudes and motivations that will give them a heightened sense of responsibility and capacity to connect as active members of their communities, nation, and world.

• Facilitate direct opportunities to apply what was learned in real world experiences in which they develop leadership skills using their voices, work, ideas and/or behavior to make a difference in their communities and world.

There were 75 participants registered specifically for LEAD Academy. With the Texas 4-H Roundup participants who also selected to participate in LEAD when they were not competing in Roundup, there were 350 youth and family members engaged and moving between sessions. Not only are the educational sessions important, but the experience of participating offers valuable life lessons as youth learn to maneuver through new and different environments. The four days of LEAD were targeted for a specific purpose. The first day included a motivational/inspirational speaker and the opportunity for participants to select a track of interest in a project area of Agriculture and Livestock, Health and Nutrition, Natural Resources, STEM, or Vet/Medical Science. Day two focused on the aspect of service to others and participants joined together in a community service project. The third day focused on getting into college and day four targeted life in college. Day three and four workshop topics included things like College and Career Exploration: Life After High School, Emotional Intelligence: A Key in Professional Success, Completing the FAFSA, Do’s and Don’ts of Social Media, Drug Trends, Find a Mentor; Be a Mentor, and much more! Plans are already being made for another successful LEAD Academy June 8-11, 2020 in College Station! Join us!
The Texas 4-H Council is a team of 4-H members elected by their peers from across the state of Texas. Serving as ambassadors for the Texas 4-H program, members represent the organization statewide while collaborating with Extension faculty to plan, coordinate, and facilitate activities and events.

The purpose shall be to act as a sounding board to:
- Identify needs and interests of 4-H youth.
- Suggest and explore programs that will meet the needs and interests of youth.
- Advise in the determination of future 4-H programs.
- Provide a youth voice and leadership team for Junior Leader Retreat, Texas 4-H Roundup, and Texas 4-H Congress.

AT-LARGE ELECTIONS

2019 saw changes to the traditional Texas 4-H Council membership. As of 2019, Texas 4-H Council now consists of 24 delegates representing the 12 districts. Two members from each district will be elected to serve on Council. In addition, there are now 6 “At-Large Delegates” serving as at-large members, selected through an extensive process.

HOW DID IT WORK?

April - At-Large applicants submitted applications in 4HConnect outlining leadership experience, a letter of recommendation, and a two-minute video in response to a question prompt. Delegates had no restrictions regarding district representation.

April - Applications were accepted and each applicant completed an online or phone interview with the selection committee consisting of four Texas 4-H Council Advisors and three current Texas 4-H members. The applicants were then narrowed to a pool of 15 candidates.

May - The final candidates were announced on Texas 4-H social media channels with a photo and statement for each candidate. The posts could be shared by individuals or county programs, but no other posts could be created. All other campaigning methods were not permissible.

June - Candidate selection occurred as part of LEAD Academy/Roundup. The 15 candidates participated in a meet-and-greet opportunity the first day of LEAD Academy/Roundup, and that night followed with a live presentation and impromptu questions presented to an audience. The speeches and questions were also filmed on YouTube for others who were not present at LEAD Academy to watch. Voting was conducted on 4HConnect and opened after the presentations and closed within 48 hours. All registered/enrolled senior 4-H members had the opportunity to vote.

The final election results were announced and delegates were named during the Texas 4-H Roundup final assembly. 2019-2020 At-Large Delegates are Jentri Jackson, Laramie Crockett, Seth Kendrick, Ty Ryan Wilson, Laynie Bowman, and Elyssa Rodriguez.
Big 5 In The Big 5

AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK

1. Texas 4-H Livestock and Equine Ambassador West Coast Agricultural Experience - 25 youth and 5 adult leaders spent 10 days touring farms, ranches, and educational sights on the west coast.

2. Quality Counts 2.0 Launch - In the spring of 2019, the new and improved Quality Counts system was unveiled for all youth livestock exhibitors in Texas.

3. First Texas Livestock Ambassador Short Course in Kingsville - Youth Livestock Ambassadors were now able to select Texas A&M Kingsville for their week-long program entry training in addition to West Texas A&M/Texas Tech University and Texas A&M University College Station.

4. New Texas 4-H Explore Books on Livestock Judging and Swine - New lessons and activities explaining the basics of Livestock Judging and swine projects are available at texas4-h.tamu.edu.

5. Including other states in the Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador Short Course at Texas A&M University for the first time - Youth from Louisiana, Florida, South Carolina and Arkansas attended the shortcourse with Texas Livestock Ambassadors, allowing a Nationwide experience for all.

Big 5 In The Big 5

FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH

1. Healthy Texas Youth Ambassador Summits - 6 training summits were held to train more than 120 new Healthy Texas Youth Ambassadors to improve health in their communities.

2. Explore Guide: Food & Nutrition Series - New Explore guides are being developed to address food science, kitchen safety, nutrition, and budgeting, as well as age specific activities for groups.

3. Texas Department of Agriculture/H-E-B Food Challenge Showcase - TDA and H-E-B requested another Texas 4-H Food Challenge Showcase event during the State Fair of Texas. The event focuses on what Texas 4-H members learn in the contest, Texas ag products and their role in a healthy diet.

4. Healthy Texas Youth Ambassadors/Passenger Safety Partnership - For the first time, HTYA and the Passenger Safety program of Texas A&M AgriLife partnered to train ambassadors to deliver peer-to-peer education related to distracted driving.

5. Fashion and Interior Design Ambassadors - The 2018-2019 4-H year marked the first year of the program. 19 FID Ambassadors completed 928 hours of out-reach promoting the 4-H Fashion and Interior Design program and over 4,480 contact hours with Texas Youth. NEW: 4-H ReFashion Retreat offered a second location in South Texas in 2019. It is a 3-day camp introducing eco-fashion into the Fashion and Interior Design project. With the help of the new Ambassadors a second location offered a program with the same focus for a new group of 26 youth and adults.
LEADERSHIP & CITIZENSHIP

1. **LEAD Academy** - LEAD Academy was a new idea that came to life in 2019 in conjunction with Texas 4-H Roundup as a way to offer educational opportunities to members and families who may or may not participate in that traditional 4-H summertime event.

2. **Global Leadership Opportunities Beyond Education** - Thirty-seven youth and adults traveled to Costa Rica during the second phase of GLOBE as participants continued to explore different cultures, sustainable agriculture, service and poverty. The group had the opportunity to serve a local community and participate in local activities like a soccer game. GLOBE participants submitted some thoughts following their experience in the two phase program. K Meuth wrote, “GLOBE was an incredible experience, and it pushed me to understand people, community, and culture from a new perspective. I understood poverty in its depths, and was assigned to do a community service project that is becoming a catalyst for so much more.”

3. **Global Citizenship Tour** - Thirty seven youth and adults traveled to Greece and Italy to learn about the different cultures in those countries. Seeing how other people live in various cultures is a tremendous learning experience for 4-H youth.

4. **Texas 4-H Council Elections** - New in 2019, twenty four members were elected through the Districts allowing two members per district with the remaining six members voted on by the whole Texas 4-H membership. Over a voting period of three days, there were a total of 272 ballots cast with six being unusable based on the guidelines for voting.

5. **4-H Day at the Capitol** - 4-H Day at the Capitol is a day of watching and learning for 4-H members. It is also a time for 4-H members to meet with their Representatives and Senators.

NATURAL RESOURCES

1. **Third year 4-H Water Ambassadors** - They participated in the Tier III 4-H2O Leadership Academy, a six-day tour of the Lower Rio Grande Valley learning about the Rio Grande River.

2. **National 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador training** - It was held in August at Texas A&M University-Kingsville and 30 senior 4-H members from 17 States completed the five day training.

3. **Collaboration with Texas A&M University Agricultural Sciences Department** - To offer lecture and hands-on activities beginning in the fall semester providing instructor certifications to participating college students in the Student Air Rifle and Texas Hunter Education Programs.

4. **Outdoor Challenge** - Conducted the eleventh year of the highly successful and popular 4-H Outdoor Challenge.

5. **Muzzleloading Firearms and Shooting Online Course** - Began collaboration with AgriLife Communications on first online course to be offered in the Natural Resources Program, to be available in March 2020.
1. **Robotics Participation** - Since Texas 4-H began tracking the project numbers in 2014-15 within 4-H Connect, participation in the project has increased from 1,365 to 2,271 youth (66% increase).

2. **AgRobotics at Stock Shows** - The AgRobotics contest format has now been adopted by almost all major Texas stock shows. In Fort Worth’s 2020 inaugural year they will offer up to $9,000 in scholarships. Waco, Dallas, San Antonio, and Houston shows have also adopted the format. This year's game theme is “Native Bee Challenge”, focusing on the importance of bees in agriculture.

3. **STEM Ambassadors** - Over the summer, the Technology Team was rebranded to better align with other Texas 4-H leadership groups and industry, now called STEM Ambassadors. Their new mission is to educate communities about science, technology, engineering, and math opportunities; both inside and outside of 4-H, while learning essential skills in STEM, communication, and teamwork.

4. **Photography Ambassadors** - A two-tiered program where youth receive in-depth training in photography, pass a practicum, and contribute back service time. Once certified, their charge is to take the knowledge and skills and serve as mentors to their peers. Built within the program are field trips, service opportunities, and practice experiences where youth can hone their skills. Photography Ambassadors serve as photographers for county, district, and state events.

5. **Photography Project** - Photography continues to be a very popular project with approximately 5,000 (10% of total membership) members enrolled in the project. County, district and state level contests continue to provide many opportunities for members to showcase their skills. This year’s state photography contest consisted of 389 senior 4-H members who entered over 1,100 photos.
The Texas 4-H Center is located in the center of Texas overlooking Lake Brownwood. The 78 acre conference and retreat center opened in April 1975 and is in operation year round. Summer abounds with youth camps while the remainder of the year the facility is open to host corporate meetings, team building workshops utilizing the challenge course, family and class reunions and just about any type of meeting you can imagine. The Center is a great place to “get away… learn and play”.

Looking further into 2018-2019 at the 4-H Center...

**Summer Camps:**
- 10 4-H Camps
  - 4-H Fishing Camp, Mission Possible & MP Mentor Training, Horizons, County Camp I & II, Prime Time I & II
- 2 Non 4-H Camps
- 1 Outdoor Challenge Competition
- **June:** 748 total visitors
  » 524 youth, 224 adults
  » 5 youth events
- **July:** 955 total visitors
  » 675 Youth, 280 Adults
  » 8 youth events

**Fall, Winter, Spring Events and Retreats**
- **October:** 156 total visitors
  » 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassadors, 4-H Water Ambassadors, and District Council Retreat.
- **November:** 123 total visitors
  » Junior Leadership Retreat
- **January:** 99 total visitors
  » Teen Retreat, Texas 4-H Council Meeting, and ReFashion Retreat
- **March:** 51 total visitors
  » Andy Roddick Spring Break Youth Camp

The Texas 4-H Center Road Show brings the team building and fun from summer camp right to you! Cari Snider takes activities to county or district events upon request.

**Road Shows**
- 2,447 total people
- Zavalla County, San Saba County, Ellis County, Callahan County, Burleson County, Wise County, Deaf Smith County, D5 YES Camp, Cass County, Eastland County, Brady Elementary ACE Program, Brady Middle School ACE Program, Texas 4-H Round Up Kickoff Night
4-H Day at the Capitol

4-H Day at the Capitol is a time for 4-H members to meet with their Representatives and Senators, watch, and learn. This year, Representatives Trent Ashby and Ernest Bailes, former Texas 4-H Council members, spoke to the group as part of the initial program. Registration for this event opened and was full within 24 hours with 250 4-Hers and 50 adult leaders.

Dr. Montza Williams is the Extension 4-H Youth Development Specialist, and is the leader of the 4-H Day at the Capitol event. He shared some thoughts on the value of the event.

Q: Where did the idea for 4-H Day at the Capitol originate?
A: It's so important for youth to know and be comfortable with our legislative process because it is there that laws and policies are made that impact everyone. Growing from our Texas 4-H Congress experience, the day at the capitol event allows youth to meet and visit with their state legislators, see them in action in the chambers and learn more about the everyday life of congressional members and staff. Those things that 4-H members study in school become real as they interact with Congressmen and walk the halls where it all happens.

Q: Why is it a valuable experience for 4-H youth?
A: The legislative process should not be intimidating. When 4-Hers learn how it all comes together, they realize they can become part of the process and not just a bystander watching it happen.

Q: What is most rewarding for you in coordinating this event?
Over the years, it has been exciting for me to watch 4-H members learn the legislative process and get involved in their communities. Some have chosen to run for office at various levels of government – from school boards at the community level to serving the state in Austin.

Taylor Watz attended 4-H Day at the Capitol and took a moment to reflect on her experience. Taylor is 17 years old and has been an active member of Wharton County 4-H for 9 years.

Q: Why did you find 4-H Day at the Capitol a valuable and enjoyable event?
A: I had the honor of meeting state government officials, Texas State Senator Lois Kolkhorst of District 18 & Texas State Representative Phil Stephenson from District 85. I was able to speak with them over my concerns on missing class time due to agricultural & leadership events. I felt that learning outside the classroom was just as important and shouldn’t count as an absence against students. I was grateful that they were interested in my thoughts and concerns. Both said they would look into it. I appreciated them listening to my concerns.

Q: What did you learn from your experience at 4-H Day at the Capitol?
A: I learned the governmental process of how to introduce a bill. I was able to listen to a staff speaker explain his concerns on why he felt it was more important to take a citizenship test verses the history end of course test at public schools.

Q: Why do you think experiences and opportunities like that are valuable for 4-H youth?
A: Experiences like these give 4-H youth a chance to ask questions to their county representatives. It gives them an opportunity to be heard and taken serious on any concerns they might have such as myself.

All youth participants at Texas 4-H Day at the Capitol 2019.
This summer, five youth from the Lone Star State traveled beyond our nation’s borders through the States’ 4-H International Exchange Program. The youth, ranging in ages 14 to 18 traveled to Japan or Costa Rica for a four-week homestay, often described as truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

“Global Citizenship activities such as the States’ 4-H International Exchange Program provide youth and families with life-changing experiences,” Extension Specialist in the Youth Development Initiative for 4-H, Darlene Locke Ph.D. said. “The homestays provide a rich environment where they are ‘immersed in the culture’; they are not there just to sightsee but they engage with the family each day!”

Reuben Stecher is a 10-year Kaufman County 4-H member going into his senior year of high school, and a Texas delegate who traveled to Costa Rica this past summer in what he called nothing short of an “eye-opening” experience.

“My favorite part of the trip was the relationships I formed with my host family,” Stecher said. “We connected really early and they are now my family; they are my brothers and sisters and my extra parents and they happen to live in Costa Rica.”

Stecher recalled family hikes, pristine beach visits, crystal clear streams in his Costa Rican back yard, going to school with his new brother, and even participating in a protest, saying his experiences ultimately cultivated a greater sense of confidence.

“During my homestay, I gained a little more independence and I feel more able to just go and do something and be confident in myself...maybe take a risk,” Stecher said. “Teaching yourself and learning that you have the capability to be out there on your own, even though you’ve lived with your parents so long, but you still have the capacity to be more self-reliant, is very important to discovering yourself before you’re thrown out into the world.”

A common theme amongst all of the travelers was a greater sense of gratitude and “deep appreciation” as noted by Stecher, for the small aspects of their culture in America.
“All of a sudden I would notice things I would’ve never noticed before,” Stecher said. “I was more grateful for things, just the little things of daily life, and I have been much more observant of the things that we’re doing and how they are part of our culture.”

Katelyn Besler, a 4-H member from Terry County, traveled to Osaka, Japan, to spend her summer experiencing Japanese markets, shrines, festivals, bullet trains, and more with her host parents and sisters.

“It helped me better understand how to communicate with people that I don’t know anything about and a different culture,” Besler said. “That was the most intriguing part, seeing how people in another part of the world live.”

One of Besler’s favorite parts of her trip was interacting with the Japanese people who she deemed “the sweetest people she’s ever met”, which ceased all preliminary travel fears.

“I came back with this understanding that we’re all on this earth and we all deserve to be treated right, so you might as well be sweet to everybody,” Besler said. “I was extremely nervous, I had stressed myself out so bad, but once I got there, I realized everybody was so sweet and I had never experienced anything like that in America.”

Besler enjoyed her experience so much that now she dreams of one day returning and teaching others about her experience so that they will have the same opportunity. Stecher also hopes to encourage other Texas 4-H youth to embark on this type of journey.

“I highly recommend that anyone with the opportunity go on this trip, it was amazing,” Stecher said. “It doesn’t matter where you go, whatever country you end up going to, that’s one of the least important factors… It’s about meeting new people and learning there’s more to the world than what you’ve experienced growing up.”

Both Stecher and Besler learned of the exchange program in Japan after hosting a Japanese student here in Texas the summer before. Through the States’ 4-H International Exchange Program, Texas families also host youth and adult chaperones from other countries each summer, sharing “Texas hospitality and so much more” for four weeks each summer.

“Opening your home to a foreign visitor and treating them as ‘one of your own’ is one of the most selfless acts of service one could offer,” Dr. Locke said. “Many of the Texas Host Families have kept up with their exchange delegates for twenty-plus years. The bonds made during these short four-week homestays are amazing.”

Texas 4-H will again host youth from Japan and South Korea in July-August 2020. To apply to be a Host Family, go to https://www.states4hexchange.org and click on the “Host a Student” tab. Youth 14 and older interested in traveling to another country such as Japan, Costa Rica, Norway, South Korea, Taiwan or Romania should contact Dr. Locke at dlocke@ag.tamu.edu for more information on the program. The deadline to apply is December 1, 2019.
Salute to Excellence

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. All awards are presented at the Salute to Excellence ceremony at Texas 4-H Roundup in College Station, Texas. Thank you to our sponsor, Whataburger!

Salute To Excellence

District 1
Cara Bradshaw, Randall County
Max Payne, Gray County

District 2
Blayne & Brandy Reed, Swisher County
David Borg, Lubbock County

District 3
Thurman & Edie Molder, Palo Pinto County
Kathleen Simmons, Parker County

District 4
Howard Tong, Bowie County
Karen Mayfield, Denton County

District 5
Garry T Boyd, Upshur County

District 6
Paul & Melissa Knott, Midland County

District 7
Dr. Mike & Tara Salisbury, Tom Green County
Doug & Tammy Hemphill, McCulloch County

District 8
Jennifer Fowler, Williamson County
Heath & Jennifer Crumley, McLennan County

District 9
Lyn Hardouin, Harris County
Stephanie Czajkowski, Brazos County

District 10
Keith Kramer, Gillespie County
Genevieve Moore, Guadalupe County

District 11
Patsy Bolf, Karnes County
Mary Fox, Nueces County

District 12
Jimmy Meyer, Atascosa County
Shari John, Dimmit County

Leader Legacy

District 1
Kay Bezner, Dallam County

District 10
Peggy Clingingsmith, Guadalupe County

Citation for Outstanding Service to 4-H

District 4
State Fair of Texas – Creative Arts / Special Events Division

District 2
Archery Shack

District 11
Precinct 3 Commissioner Brian Olsen
Aransas County

District 8
Reta Gillen, Navarro County

Texas 4-H Alumni

District 10
Donald & Audri Bowers, Gillespie County

District 4
County Extension Agent
Courtney Davis, Denton County

Meritorious Service

District 8
County Extension Agent
Laura Petty, Leon County

Commendable Service

District 1
Sue Walker, Randall County

District 9
Earlene Taylor, District 9 4-H Office

Check out texas4-h.tamu.edu/awards/ for more information on submitting an outstanding supporter for a 2019 Salute to Excellence Award!
Maggie Chaffin from Bosque County 4-H was one of over 200 members who received a 2019 Texas 4-H Foundation Opportunity Scholarship. The program awarded more than $2.5 million in scholarships at Texas 4-H Roundup in June 2019.

“I will be attending Texas A&M University, and I will be majoring in Ag Business with a minor in Agriculture Communications,” Chaffin said, “with hopes of after I get out of college to go into marketing in the agriculture sector either being an agriculture sales representative or a marketing and communications director.”

Chaffin was involved in 4-H and FFA through multiple opportunities, participating in contests such as showing breeding beef and market cattle, Livestock Judging, Public Relations, and more. She was also heavily involved in her student council and a star on the softball field.

“This scholarship means a lot to me, I was very excited when I found out that I had received one,” Chaffin said. “College is very expensive and it can be very hard to attend college without the help of others so being able to receive this scholarship has given me an opportunity to be able to pursue my passions in agriculture and go to college and get the next step of my education.”

Chaffin is a member of the American Hereford Association and Texas Hereford Association, serving terms as the Sweetheart and Queen, and several years on the Texas Board of Directors. Chaffin currently serves as the Texas Hereford President.

Chaffin recalled how 4-H has been a huge part of her life, noting that she’d been a member as long as she could be, but that she’d been around the program for much longer, attending meetings and events with her three older siblings, “doing everything that they did”.

“It’s [4-H] just been a great opportunity for me, and I’m just so thankful for this organization and everything that it has done for me,” Chaffin said.

Chaffin noted that she just simply wants to tell her scholarship donors, Marcus and Adrianna Hill, thank you.

“Without y’all I might not be able to attend Texas A&M and A&M has been my passion since I was a little girl so being able to attend A&M is just a great opportunity for me,” Chaffin said, “and I just want to say thank you and that one day I hope to be in the position that you are and give back to other people.”

For more information about the 2020 Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship program for donors or applicants, please visit texas4hfoundation.org.
Tally Patton  
Acacia Barker  
Halle Barkley  
Baylee Ogletree  
Avonley Powers  
Jack Detten  
Brandalyn Ellis  
Carter Burgin  
Cambry Cline  
Bryn Owen  
Emily Thurman  
Jaci Brown  
Trent Collins  
Katie Gray  
Paige Holbrooks  
Bryson High  
Kristi McAlister  
Chandler Schulte  
Cielo Farley  
Hannah Hooper  
Emily Robinson  
Garyn Bigham  
Jacob Burt  
Jett Patterson  
Davis Smith  
Payton Brown  
Brooklyn Tyson  
Alyssa Cowan  
Jerik Reed  
Gentry Wesley  
Kalico Burkes  
Camrin Byers  
Avery Tanner  
Jordan Wade  
Kaleb Brendle  
Corrie Earthman  
Kincaid Johnson  
Sierra Jameson  
Carley Turner  
Ali Olsen  
Kelsey Thomas  
Bryant Sawin  
Joseph Gerlach  
Bryson Morrow  
Brady Vanover  
Amanda Richards  
London Kohler  
Jordan Callagher  
Kiersten Esposito  
Rayna Fetters  
Caitlyn Teel  
Zachary Downe  
Katelyn McCormick  
Kristen Samek  
Christian Dieterich  
Morgan Bradshaw  
Ethan Keller  
Bailey McCollum  
Jonathan Murphy  
Miranda Haynes  
Kevin Pagel  
Taylor Brazil  
Dylan Rankin  
John Wofford  
Jacob Cole  
Landrey Rogers  
Rachel Self  
Ashleigh Sugg  
Megan Dunn  
Benjamin Mathews  
Jacob Poorman  
Ashlyn Willhite  
Thomas Taylor  
Jessica Dennis  
Ray Edwards  
Ray Edwards  
Taylor Ashton  
Ryder Ross  
 Baylor Halfmann  
Tate Jones  
Robin Morris  
Nathan Waldron  
Christian Coffman  
Kolby Dague  
 Delanie McClanahan  
Adrianna Schlaefer  
Clara Steglich  
Margaret Wood  
Maggie Chaffin  
Sydney Harris  
Kennedy Berry  
Elaine Polster  
Treyson Hardin  
Victoria Landry  
Mathew Roach  
Claire Crow  
Emilie Hoelscher  
Grace Lauderdale  
Scott Widner  
Caden Reed  
Raylee Ezzell  
Cole Herring  
Taylor Swonke  
Heather Baker  
Luke Fowler  
Payton Holcomb  
Saryn Paulsen  
Briana Hicks  
Hannah Czajkowski  
Rylee Philipello  
Olivia Williams  
Abigail Williams  
Grace Lewis  
Trent Stefka  
Jenna Le Blanc  
Rebecca Andrews  
Faith Clark  
Mary Greer  
 Ruben Marroquin  
Jonah Romero  
Eliza Lazenby  
Jesse Lazenby  
Megan Nuernberg  
Hale Ingram  
Jaci Nix  
Coltin Walton  
Chance Clipper  
Jonah McInty  
Mallory McKeever  
John Jones  
Jazlynn Lewis  
Kaylee Berdoll  
Emma Anton  
Cody Elbel  
Clayton Elbel  
Kenzy Hoffmann  
Makenzie Kniep  
Helena MacCrossan  
Garrett Cole  
Faith Berry  
Cade Burkholler  
Andrew Ogea  
Camryn Stetter  
Brant Bowers  
Morgyn Granville  
Ashley Hahn  
Kaylee Kramer  
Marti Lumpkins  
Michelle Millhouse  
Joshua Moore  
Bradin Hanselka  
Keaghan Holt  
Kaitlyn Kempen  
Caleb Kunde  
Taylor Maberry  
Tasha Martin  
Taylor Mills  
Mason Reasor  
Olivia Twining  
Shelby Curry  
Augusten Stehling  
Bailey Parker  
Cameron Poole  
Preston Twilligear  
Cara Hernandez  
Martha Dolliver  
Scheaffer Folsom  
Dylan Luce  
Erica Masi  
Caitlin McCauslin  
Trist Warren  
William Whitaker  
Cyce Gaston  
Rebekah Ramirez  
Madison Brummett  
Zachary Hoover  
Haley Kopecki  
Meagan Seesengood  
Anna Welfel  
Canute Janish  
Kensly Ley  
Chelsea Brothers  
Cole Mau  
Alyssa Otto  
Claire Supak  
Abby Weyand  
Kaylie Zapalac  
Martin Brophy IV  
Jadan Butler  
Kelly Thomas  
Sarah Bludau  
Hannah Bludau  
Kingsley Kahanek  
Sarah Peters  
Anisa Cornett  
Hannah Sliva  
Lanae Tucker  
Brooke Vandenberg  
Hannah Cayford  
Mollie Goetzl  
Victor Huff  
Champ Lee  
Molly May  
Briana Villarreal  
Ryan Speis  
Taylor Klatte  
Mattie Niebuhr  
Marshall Wagner  
Hannah Chumchal  
Abbey Sellers  
Zoey Zahn  
Laura Macmanus  
Jessica Pena  
Reagan Kopplin  
William Scogin  
Logan Thomas  
Lauren Thomas  

4-H is known for life skills, friendships, and opportunity. 4-H is for all. For one Texas 4-H alumni, the fun organization for youth became so much more. It became her stepping stone to a goal, her stronghold during tragedy, and her opportunity to teach others.

Katie Callaghan joined 4-H as a freshman in high school, starting in the dog project and making her way up to the horse project. Callaghan met her horse “Nilla” the day the foal was born and received her as a birthday present soon after. That day, an inexperienced 4-H youth and young horse began their journey to a goal that took 12 long years to accomplish.

“We had no formal training whatsoever, and I found the 4-H shows and found that they kinda help teach you along the way at every show,” Callaghan said. “I kind of found my niche in like, I can learn some stuff with this.”

Callaghan said she “grasped every single one of those educational programs and went to every clinic” diving head first into the opportunities of 4-H. Callaghan now credits 4-H for she and Nilla’s success saying, “without that experience of being able to go to those shows when I was younger and when she was younger, we definitely would not be where we are today.”

“We recently just competed at the APHA World Show. That has been a dream of mine since she was born. Ever since then I’ve been going to the World Show in Fort Worth every year and saying “I really want to do that,” Callaghan said. “Pretty much only the people with big time trainers and deep pocket books get to go to that, but I said one day I’m going to do it with this horse.”

Callaghan and Nilla competed in the ranch horse classes, completing what Callaghan called “a clean run” and “the best pattern she could have hoped for.” Callaghan said she wasn’t concerned with the outcome at that point, but rather was excited with the run they finished at the show she’d dreamt of competing at for twelve years.
“It wasn’t until later when we found out all of the scores, … it was just a couple of us left in the pen and finally I was the last one meaning I was the world champion,” Callaghan said, “and that was a lifetime goal of mine, and it was very, very special to be able to do that goal.”

Callaghan’s family was not one to have shiny halters, and life even got harder beyond those early years of financial struggle. That’s where Callaghan learned her “first lesson in 4-H” of work ethic, specifically that “money can’t ever beat hard work”.

“There was a point where I didn’t own Nilla for a bit because I could not afford her and to be able to keep my family afloat, but I knew I was going to get her back one day,” Callaghan said. “My freshman year of college… I got a call from my Dad that he was diagnosed with cancer, and it kind of crushed us.”

Callaghan’s father fought for almost two years before he lost his battle with cancer. Approaching the fifth anniversary of his passing, Callaghan recalls the struggles her family went through following the tragedy. After a foreclosure and moving her family to Canyon, Texas, with her, Callaghan supported her family first and longed for the day she could once again own Nilla.

“Everyone knew who he [Callaghan’s father] was and he was a huge supporter of 4-H. He went to everything, was the volunteer, he was that person,” Callaghan said. “And so, I knew that one day I had to get her back and I did. And I scraped every bit of money together to have food on the table to support my family and to be able to have food in her belly as well.”

Callaghan hopes that people will hear her story of perseverance and work ethic to make their dreams happen, too.

“It doesn’t matter if you have the prettiest horse in the pen, what matters is what you have done with that horse. What matters is how much time you’ve spent with that horse,” Callaghan said. “I had no money. We did not have fancy barns. I do not have a fancy truck. But what goes a mile longer than anything else was my ability to go and work and listen to people and seek for help because people want to help. And 4-H taught me that. Go up and ask questions, go up and listen.”

Callaghan emphasized that when it’s show time, “the only person that matters out there is you,” naming that as “when success begins.” Callaghan said her only competition is herself now, that it doesn’t matter about anybody else, and she shares with everybody she still mentors.

“That was my biggest hindrance was looking around, looking around at others and saying I’m not that person, I’m not this person, how could I even compete and compare to these people,” Callaghan said. “But I said you know what I’m just going to keep on trucking. And we’ve got a goal and we’re going to get there somehow Nilla. And it took a while, it took us 12 years to be able to get here, this was not an overnight goal by any means.”

The World Champion still supports 4-H programs near her, helping other youth learn the value of hard work and emphasizing that truly anyone can reach their goals with work.

“You know any horse can get to that point, any student, any child can get to that point,” Callaghan said. “All that matters is being able to work with them and getting that bond and success will happen.”

To learn more about 4-H or the horse project, please visit texas4-h.tamu.edu or talk to your local County Extension Agent about opportunities to compete or support in your area.
Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation

1. Texas 4-H was the TOP fundraiser in the fall Paper Clover Campaign! Congratulations, Texas 4-H and thank you for your efforts!

2. Texas 4-H Youth members, family, supporters, and more can book a hotel room at any Wyndham Hotel or Resort and SAVE! Plus, Wyndham in return gives money back to the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation.

   Use the direct booking link https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/?corporate_id=1000028575 or simply use the corporate code to access the deals: 1000028575.

3. Reconnect and join the Texas 4-H alumni database at https://texas4hfoundation.org/alumni

4. Shop Amazon Smile and give back to Texas 4-H Youth! When you shop at smile.amazon.com and select “Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation” as your charity, Amazon donates back to 4-H youth!

   Same products. Same prices. Sweeter ending.

5. David White was hired as the Executive Director of the Texas 4-H Foundation in 2019. Here’s what David had to say about his new role:

   Q: Why are you excited to lead the Foundation?
   A: “I am excited to lead one of the premier 4-H Foundations in the country as we move forward in the future. The Texas 4-H Foundation has a rich history of supporting the Texas 4-H programs and I am proud to be part of this legacy as we continue to share the 4-H stories to our community and business leaders. I have witnessed how one of the nation’s foremost youth educational programs can transform the lives of over 650,000 youth each year. Being part of this 4-H family makes me proud to share with everyone that Texas 4-H truly “Makes the Best Better”.

   Q: What plans do you have for the Foundation?
   A: “The Texas 4-H Foundation is the cornerstone of our 4-H Programs. Our vision is to create a family, team atmosphere where we incorporate the faculty, AgriLife Extension and Texas A&M system leaders into the success of the Texas 4-H programs. We will share the stories of the youth and get community leaders behind our 4-H mission. We will build on the legacy of being the nation’s premier youth education program and will continue to train and build the leaders of tomorrow.”

There are many ways to give! Support Texas 4-H youth year-round through the Texas 4-H Youth Foundation at texas4hfoundation.org.
Richard and Patsy Wallrath
MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE FOR 13 YEARS
“Why 4-H?” “Well, Why not.”

Richard Wallrath is the largest individual donor in the history of the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program. Wallrath started the Richard Wallrath Educational Foundation to be able to give to the students of Texas 4-H. Since establishing the Foundation in 2006, the Wallrath's have been able to fund over $7 million in scholarships to Texas 4-H members.

“I believe in what 4-H teaches; honest, integrity, decency & ethics for kids to live by,” Wallrath says, “I feel it an honor to be involved in with 4-H.”

On November 8, 2018, the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service honored the Wallrath’s by renaming their South Campus building at Texas A&M to the Richard and Patsy Wallrath Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Building.

The building is home to a number of offices including Texas 4-H, Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension’s Family and Community Health unit, the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership program and the V.J. Young Institute of County Government.

For the Wallrath’s, the most rewarding part of giving is not buildings and celebrations, but it is meeting their scholars and forming genuine relationships with them.

Mrs. Wallrath says meeting the kids that are making the most out of the opportunity their scholarship gave them is the most rewarding part for her, “We have a lot of kids we stay in touch with.”

This year, the Richard Wallrath Educational Foundation awarded 35 $10,000 scholarships to 4-H members that are pursuing a course of study leading to a four-year degree. Scholars are awarded based on their academic record, 4-H involvement, and financial need.

“When you give a child an education, you give them something no one can steal. You make their dreams come true.” – Dick Wallrath. Photo: 2019 Texas 4-H Wallrath Scholarship Recipients.
Howard County youth donate handmade goods to local Salvation Army.

Leon County youth host and serve volunteer “thank you” breakfast.
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Montgomery County Agent teaches youth about alternative energy.

San Augustine County 4-H member teaches younger youth about cooking.

HEAD
HEART
HANDS
HEALTH
Bill Poteet, Fort Worth - President
Fred Weber, Austin - Vice President
Bill Jerman, San Antonio - Secretary
Karen Alexander, Richmond - Treasurer
David Waggoner, Corsicana - Past President
Frank Monk, Bellville - At-Large
Kristin Stanley, Austin - At-Large
J.D. Pauerstein, San Antonio - Legal Advisor
Chuck Lewis, Waco - Investment Advisor
Dinah Covert, San Antonio
Emanual Glockzin, Jr., Bryan
Jackie Van De Walle, San Antonio
Jake Paine, Fort Worth
Nancy Tom, Campbellton
Plug Piehl, Amarillo
Cary Sims, Lufkin
Joe Mask, Franklin
Mandy Patrick, Longview
Phyllis Griffin, Gainesville
John Wade, Houston
Ex-Officio Members:
Dr. Courtney Dodd
Dr. Parr Rosson

2019 Scholarships

Baccalaureate Scholarships Breakdown
Applications submitted 329
Awards Given 204
Number of $20,000 awards 83
Number of $16,000 awards 2
Number of $10,000 awards 51
Number of $7,500 awards 8
Number of $5,000 awards 21
Number of $4,500 awards 2
Number of $4,000 awards 7
Number of $3,075 awards 1
Number of $3,000 awards 17
Number of $1,000 awards 12

Courageous Heart Scholarships Breakdown
Applications submitted 17
Awards Given 6
Number of $5,000 awards 6

Collegiate Scholarships Breakdown
Applications submitted 35
Awards Given 7
Number of $5,000 awards 1
Number of $4,000 awards 1
Number of $3,075 awards 1
Number of $3,000 awards 4

Technical Scholarships Breakdown
Application submitted 6
Awards Given 3
Number of $4,000 awards 1
Number of $3,000 awards 2

Total awards 220
Total amount $2,534,150.00
Texas 4-H Youth Development Program Faculty

Courtney Dodd, PhD
Program Leader

Jana Barrett
Extension Program Specialist – 4-H

Garry Branham
Extension Program Specialist – 4-H District 7

Derrick Bruton
Extension Program Specialist – 4-H STEM

Amber Carroll
Extension Program Specialist – 4-H District 6

Meredith Carter
Extension Program Specialist – 4-H District 11

JaNelle Casson
Extension Program Specialist – Military 4-H

Julie Gardner, PhD
Extension Program Specialist – 4-H Family & Community Health

Dottie Goebel
Extension Program Specialist – 4-H Youth Livestock & Ag

Arnulfo Gonzalez
Extension Program Specialist – Rural Student Success Initiative

Seth Hall
Extension Program Specialist – 4-H District 3

Callie Henly
Extension Program Specialist – 4-H Marketing & Communications

Laura Real Huebinger, PhD
Extension Program Specialist – 4-H Volunteers

Cory Hundl
Extension Program Specialist – 4-H District 9

Natalia Hurt
Extension Program Specialist – Rural Student Success Initiative

Larry Hysmith
Extension Program Specialist – 4-H Natural Resources

Darlene Locke, PhD
Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist

Megan Logan
Extension Program Specialist – 4-H District 10

Maria Luna-Torres, PhD
Project Director – Rural Student Success Initiative

Joe Mask, PhD
Extension Specialist – Veterinary Extension

Angela McCorkle
Extension Program Specialist – Family & Community Health

Jheri-Lynn McSwain
Extension 4-H Youth Development Specialist – District 5

Larry Perez
Program Coordinator – Shooting Sports

Roxanna Reyna-Islas
Extension Program Specialist – 4-H

Luis Saldana
Extension Program Specialist – 4-H – District 12

David Smith
Extension Program Specialist – BAEN

Cari Snider
Extension Program Specialist – 4-H – Texas 4-H Center

Montza Williams, PhD
Extension 4-H Youth Development Specialist

Bailee Wright
Extension Program Specialist – 4-H – District 1

Denita Young
Extension Program Specialist – 4-H – District 4

Billy Zanolini, PhD
Extension 4-H Youth Development Specialist – Texas Youth Livestock and Agriculture

Staff

Misty Cathey
Information Technology Professional

Sue Ferguson
Assistant to the 4-H and Youth Development Program Director

Troy Wren
Business Coordinator

Lauren Bowman
Student Technician

Macy Lange
Student Technician

Melanie Provines
Rural Student Success Initiative

Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation Staff

David White
Executive Director

Kelly Gideon
Program Manager – Development, Scholarships & Alumni

Emily Gainey
Program Coordinator – Marketing and Communications

Meredith Born
Administrative Coordinator
A TRUE LEADER DOESN’T STEP ON OTHERS TO REACH THEIR DREAMS.

Give kids the support they need and watch them take on the world with integrity. 4-H empowers kids with the skills they need in life. Help grow more true leaders at 4-H.org.