

TEXAS 4-H

# Champion School

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INTENT TO PARTICIPATE

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI**LIFE  
EXTENSION

Texas 4-H Youth Development Program & Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
[texas4-h.tamu.edu](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu) | [agrilifeextension.tamu.edu](http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu)

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# ABOUT THE PROGRAM

## WHAT IS THE TEXAS 4-H CHAMPION SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Texas 4-H Champion School Program is a partnership between local schools and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's 4-H Youth Development Program. This partnership is designed to improve the lives of young Texans and their families with experiential learning in a school setting. The goal of the Texas 4-H Champion School Program goes beyond the classroom through development of school-based 4-H clubs where life skills such as responsibility, public speaking, career investigation, and healthy habits are developed. These skills empower youth to become the leaders of tomorrow!

## APPLY

Submit an online Texas 4-H Champion School Program application to the AgriLife Extension Agent. Scan for application:



## SCHOOL 4-H CLUB

Create an official 4-H School Club, which could meet before, during, or after school. A school staff member or screened volunteer can serve as the Club Manager. The school and/or child would be responsible for paying the 4-H enrollment fee.

## PROGRAM EVALUATION

Administer program evaluations provided by the AgriLife Extension Agent to measure impactful educational and developmental outcomes such as:

- Content knowledge gain
- Youth Thriving indicators such as
  - openness to Challenge & Discovery
  - goal setting & management
  - prosocial orientation
  - growth mindset and more!

## FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Schools should be prepared to fund activities and programs of the Texas 4-H Champion School program including the Texas 4-H membership fee. Suggestions include:

- Charge a participation/membership fee to participants
- Inquire about local funding sources. For example, Title I money may be appropriate to spend on this program
- Reach out to outside organizations for sponsorships and/or donations of time, materials, and expertise.

## PROJECT EXPERIENCES

Offer project experiences in at least ONE of the Texas 4-H Big 5 project areas:

1. Agriculture & Livestock
2. Family & Community Health
3. Leadership & Citizenship
4. Natural Resources
5. STEM

Schools may also offer project experiences in other areas based on the interests of the school, with the understanding that those projects may not have educational resources through Texas 4-H.

All project experiences must have:

- at least 5 sequential learning experiences
- each experience must be at least 30 minutes in length with a total of at least 2 hours of educational experiences
- be approved by the AgriLife Extension Agent who will communicate with the Regional Program Leader and District 4-H Extension Program Specialist on those topics

Volunteer Project Leaders may include school staff members. Community volunteers and/or parents may also serve in this capacity, but must have a screened school staff member present. Time frame of instruction is based on the needs and preferences of the school, however, it will be approved by the AgriLife Extension Agent to ensure quality learning and life skill development. Examples include:

- 1 day a week after school for 1 hour for a six-week period
- Classes during the school day

## CURRICULUM RESOURCES

AgriLife Extension Agents will provide access to curriculum resources for selected subject areas. Some resources may be available at a cost, which will be the responsibility of the school. Any additional resources used must be approved by the AgriLife Extension Agent. Not all resources are available in every area. Work with the County Extension Agent to establish needs and goals.



## ABOUT US

### WHAT IS TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is a unique education agency with a statewide network of professional educators, trained volunteers, and county offices. For over 100 years, the agency has improved lives across Texas by delivering innovative science-based solutions and education at the intersection of health, agriculture and environment in communities across the state. Today, we continue the legacy of service, bringing together traditional outreach and modernized tools to reach Texans right where they are.

### WHAT IS 4-H

4-H is a national organization which helps young people develop lifelong knowledge and skills to become engaged citizens. Through 4-H, youth are also taught how to meet the diversities and challenges of today's society by bringing together youth and adults to design programs that will teach skills for living. 4-H is truly a model of the "learning by doing" teaching concept. It reaches people in their own communities with delivery methods sustainable to their needs. 4-H also helps to provide opportunities for families and communities to develop stronger bonds.

To teach young people about the many subjects, the 4-H program uses the learn-by-doing method of instruction. The 4-H project that each member selects according to their interest and ability is the program's cornerstone. Projects involve setting goals and evaluating progress. The skills and knowledge learned in 4-H projects works to help members become more engaged individuals and citizens.

### TEXAS 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Texas 4-H Youth Development is part of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, which is a member of the Texas A&M University System. Founded in 1908, 4-H is the largest youth development program in Texas, reaching more than 550,000 youth each year. Texas 4-H Youth Development Program strives to foster positive development among youth as they participate in hands-on learning experiences through various projects of interest. Regardless of the subject matter focus, the long-term goal of the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program is to foster the development of leadership and life skills, helping youth to be productive and contributing members of their communities.

### THE 4-H CLOVER

The first 4-H emblem was a three-leaf clover, introduced sometime between 1907 and 1908. The three "H's" represented head, heart and hands. In 1911, at a meeting of club leaders in Washington, a fourth "H" representing health was added and the current 4-H four-leaf clover emblem was approved. It is protected by the U.S. Congress. More information on Clover logo usage is available.

The 4-H pledge was worded by Otis Hall, Kansas state 4-H leader. It was approved at the first National 4-H Club Camp in 1927 in Washington, D.C. The words "my world" were added to the pledge in 1973. Their addition is the only change ever made to the 4-H pledge.

- HEAD stands for clearer thinking and decision-making. Knowledge that is useful throughout life.
- HEART stands for greater loyalty, strong personal values, positive self concept, concern for others.
- HEALTH stands for better living, healthy lifestyles.
- HANDS stands for larger service, workforce preparedness, useful skills, science and technology literacy.

The official 4-H Emblem is a clover with four leaves and an "H" on each leaf. The clover's stem must point to the right as you look at the image. The 4-H Emblem is not a plain four-leaf clover. The 4-H Emblem should appear in specific colors and in its entirety. The 4-H Name & Emblem belongs to the 4-H Youth Development Program, under the authority of USDA and anyone wishing to use it must obtain permission to use it ahead of time.

### 4-H MOTTO & PLEDGE

In support of the 4-H Club Motto, "To Make the Best Better"

I Pledge:

My HEAD to clearer thinking, My HEART to greater loyalty, My HANDS to larger service, and My HEALTH to better living, For my club, my community, my country, and my world.



## EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

### WHAT DOES THE EXTENSION AGENT DO

The Texas 4-H Champion School program is a partnership between your school and your local AgriLife Extension agent. When you complete the intent to apply your AgriLife Extension agent will be on board and available to help you every step of the way. They will also act as a liaison between the school and the District/State 4-H Specialists.

### PROGRAM CONSIDERATION TIMELINE

#### ***Last week of July or early August***

- Planning Workshop with Project Leaders and/or staff

#### ***Dependent upon school, late July or early August***

- Agent Presentation during School In-Service

#### ***August or September***

- Intent to Participate

#### ***January, March, and May***

- Check in for support and status update

#### ***May***

Completion of Texas 4-H Champion School Program

#### ***Mid-May***

- Banner, press release, and other celebration materials delivered

#### ***Additional reminders for Extension staff***

- Contact the school by Summer
- Provide schools with a copy of the Texas 4-H Champion School Guide and county-specific curriculum
- Provide schools with a copy of the Texas 4-H Champion School Intent to Apply Online Link and offering.
- Provide support to schools throughout the year.
- Host a planning meeting with the school.

### CELEBRATION MATERIALS

- Proclamation made at the School Board meeting and/or Commissioners Court meeting
- Banner to display inside or outside of the school campus
- Press Release for the local media
- Recognition through Texas 4-H Program

### PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

- Conduct a Texas 4-H Champion School Planning Workshop for the project leaders and/or school staff
- Assist with local/other funding opportunity applications, if applicable
- Provide schools with the necessary resources to be successful, i.e. Explore Guides, etc.
- Serve as the liaison between the school and the District/State 4-H Specialists
- Do periodic project walk-throughs to monitor the program and provide feedback
- Ensure proper photo release forms for students have been completed and on file
- Assist with establishing a 4-H club (chartering process, 4-H Connect, enrollment, club manager training, etc.)
- Provide the school and collect the official Texas 4-H Champion School evaluation instrument to be used by the agent, RPL, and 4-H Specialists for Outcome Summaries, Program Briefs, and interpretation purposes

### POST-PROGRAM

- Provide the local media with a press release
- Contact the State 4-H Curriculum Specialist to secure a banner
- Work with the school to provide a proclamation to the School Board and/or Commissioner Court
- Provide photos, videos, program information, etc. to the District 4-H Specialist for development of recognition at the Texas 4-H Roundup via the provided Google Drive link.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact your local extension office or the State 4-H Curriculum Specialist with any questions.

#### ***Extension Office Contact -***

Name:

Phone:

Email:

#### ***State 4-H Curriculum Specialist Contact -***

Alex Kabli | alex.kabli@ag.tamu.edu | 979-321-5298

# TEXAS 4-H CHAMPION SCHOOL PROGRAM

## PARTICIPATION PLANNING

Name of ISD: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School/Campus: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which grades you are targeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the projected number of youth participating: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ After -School Program \_\_\_\_\_ In-School Program Spring  
\_\_\_\_\_ Fall Semester Only \_\_\_\_\_ Semester Only \_\_\_\_\_ Both Semesters

Please indicate which 4-H curriculum your school/campus would be interested in:

Program	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	All-Year	Other
Agriculture & Livestock				
Family & Community Health				
Natural Resources				
Leadership & Citizenship				
STEM				
Other				

Other projects and/or activities you are interested in:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



For any questions please contact your local AgriLife Extension agent. <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/contact/>

