



Introduction and History Of The Gold Star

The Gold Star Award is the highest achievement award given by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program through the county 4-H Program. The Texas 4-H Gold Star Award can only be awarded once in a member's 4-H career.

The presentation of the Gold Star Pin began in 1933, the first year Mr. E.C. Martin was the Boys 4-H Club Specialist. Mr. Martin tells us the pin was prompted by an effort to recognize the people who did the work rather than the agents. Previous to this time, the agents submitting the largest number of 4-H records received the recognition.

Records in the Extension Fiscal office indicates that the first Gold Star Pins were purchased in 1933. For the first several years the Gold Star Pins were presented at a dinner during Short Course at College Station. In the beginning each county made a nomination of their outstanding 4-H member and 100 members were selected to receive the award. After several years, the awards were presented to the outstanding 4-H boy and girl in each county.

How Quotas Are Determined

Each county 4-H Program is provided a quota annually of the number of Gold Star Awards that can be awarded. These quotas are determined based on the total number of youth in 4-H Clubs in grades 10th to Post High School who have participated in the county program during the **2019-2020** year. Each county is guaranteed a minimum number of at least two Gold Stars annually when there are members who meet the Gold Star requirements. Quota numbers are calculated using the ES-237 report from 4HConnect 1.0. (Enrollment-Reports-Previous Year-Quick Exports-ES237-Youth(Members): By County)

A list of the counties with their ES-237 enrollment and Gold Star Quota is provided. If additional Gold Stars are needed for very special circumstances, they are to be requested by the County Extension Agent to both the District Extension Administrator and 4-H Specialist. The request should include a clear justification for the additional Gold Star Award.

Quotas have been determined based on the following enrollment guidelines:

1 to 100 youth	2 Gold Star Winners
101 to 250 youth	3 Gold Star Winners
251 to 450 youth	4 Gold Star Winners
451 to 700 youth	5 Gold Star Winners
701 and over	6 Gold Star Winners

The Texas 4-H Gold Star award is presented to the most deserving young people without regard to gender.

Requirements For The Texas 4-H Gold Star

As the highest award given by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program, County Offices and Agents are asked to maintain a high level of integrity and honor through their selection process of county Gold Star recipients. At the minimum, the following guidelines should be used in the eligibility and selection process for each county:

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

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

- The member must have exhibited leadership skills by serving as a 4-H officer or committee chair (club, county, district or state), and/or as a junior or teen leader in an activity or project with or under the supervision of an adult volunteer leader.
- The 4-H member must have participated in one or more community service activities. Examples include providing leadership to a One Day 4-H project, working with or mentoring junior 4-H members; participating in community service projects (individual, group or club); and motivating other 4-H members through participation in demonstrations, projects and/or exhibits.
- The 4-H member must submit a Texas 4-H record book in the year they are to be considered for the award.

Recipient Selection Process

Because the Texas 4-H Gold Star is the highest award given to a 4-H member in Texas, the selection of each award recipient should be completed through a process that ensures the integrity and honor of the award, as well as provide the highest level of respect and consideration for the 4-H member applying.

All award opportunities, not just the Texas 4-H Gold Star Award, should be announced county wide through all communication methods utilized by the County Extension Office. This may include county newsletter, social media, e-mail blast, etc. Additionally, each club manager should be notified with the information.

The selection process should be completed by an unbiased selection committee who has a vast knowledge about 4-H in general, but who is not directly associated with any of the applicants. To achieve an unbiased committee it may be necessary for the County Office/ Agent to recruit individuals from other counties to serve. An Extension Agent or Extension support staff member from the county selecting recipients should never serve on the selection committee. Additionally, no parent, sibling, or relative of an applicant should ever serve on the selection committee.

Once a committee selects the recipients, all parties involved in the awarding and recognition process should respect and honor the decision of the selection committee. If it is determined that an issue has arisen during the selection process, the County Extension Agent should contact their District Extension Administrator and District 4-H Specialist immediately for direction.

The minimum requirements to receive the Texas 4-H Gold Star Award is the submission of a Texas 4-H record book, a Gold Star Application, and an interview.

In preparation for interviews, the following guidelines should be considered:

- Announce interview date, time, and location in ample time (minimum 4 to 6 months) so all award applicants have time to determine their availability.
- Be consistent in any process of allowing an applicant to interview through other methods beyond a face-to-face interview. If one applicant is allowed to call in using a phone, then all other applicants should be allowed the same opportunity. Regardless of the interview method used, each applicant should be reviewed fairly and equally.
- A scoring matrix should be used to ensure integrity of the selection process. This includes both the record book/application and interview process.
- Use the same judges to select all the Gold Star award recipients.
- Applicants should be orientated either in writing or verbally about the format of the interview, including style of questions, number of judges, expectation of dress, etc. County Extension Agent expectation is to provide an opportunity for the 4-H member to be successful through the application and interview process.

DISTRICT GOLD STAR AWARD QUOTAS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
1	Armstrong	7	6	2	0	15	2
1	Briscoe	6	4	2	0	12	2
1	Carson	3	6	4	0	13	2
1	Collingsworth	1	3	3	0	7	2
1	Dallam	9	18	15	0	42	2
1	Deaf Smith	4	10	8	0	22	2
1	Donley	6	2	2	0	10	2
1	Gray	8	9	6	0	23	2
1	Hall	10	6	1	0	17	2
1	Hansford	9	11	7	0	27	2
1	Hartley	1	0	1	0	2	2
1	Hemphill	3	7	9	0	19	2
1	Hutchinson	1	3	2	0	6	2
1	Lipscomb	7	5	4	0	16	2
1	Moore	11	11	10	0	32	2
1	Ochiltree	7	6	5	0	18	2
1	Oldham	3	7	3	0	13	2
1	Potter	10	6	7	0	23	2
1	Randall	31	31	20	0	82	2
1	Roberts	8	5	8	0	21	2
1	Sherman	6	2	0	0	8	2
1	Wheeler	1	3	3	0	7	2
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DISTRICT GOLD STAR AWARD QUOTAS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
2	Bailey	1	0	0	0	1	2
2	Borden	3	3	4	0	10	2
2	Castro	5	6	2	0	13	2
2	Cochran	3	1	3	0	7	2
2	Crosby	7	3	5	0	15	2
2	Dawson	4	3	3	0	10	2
2	Floyd	3	4	1	0	8	2
2	Gaines	2	1	5	0	8	2
2	Garza	10	1	4	0	15	2
2	Hale	22	18	6	0	46	2
2	Hockley	11	6	5	0	22	2
2	Lamb	11	4	2	0	17	2
2	Lubbock	27	14	17	0	58	2
2	Lynn	3	6	4	0	13	2
2	Mitchell	3	2	0	1	6	2
2	Parmer	10	0	3	0	13	2
2	Scurry	6	3	7	0	16	2
2	Swisher	14	8	4	0	26	2
2	Terry	1	7	1	0	9	2
2	Yoakum	3	3	4	0	10	2
DISTRICT TOTAL							40

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DISTRICT GOLD STAR AWARD QUOTAS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
3	Archer	15	5	9	0	29	2
3	Baylor	8	7	8	0	23	2
3	Childress	1	3	2	0	6	2
3	Clay	13	5	5	0	23	2
3	Cottle	3	1	1	0	5	2
3	Dickens	6	1	2	0	9	2
3	Foard	10	4	3	0	17	2
3	Hardeman	5	2	4	0	11	2
3	Haskell	6	5	4	0	15	2
3	Jack	3	5	2	0	10	2
3	Kent	5	1	4	0	10	2
3	King	5	3	2	0	10	2
3	Knox	2	2	6	0	10	2
3	Montague	12	11	6	0	29	2
3	Motley	4	1	3	0	8	2
3	Palo Pinto	9	13	8	0	30	2
3	Parker	32	18	23	0	73	2
3	Stephens	3	1	3	0	7	2
3	Stonewall	8	11	6	0	25	2
3	Throckmorton	16	10	22	0	48	2
3	Wichita	9	8	12	0	29	2
3	Wilbarger	4	10	13	0	27	2
3	Wise	32	23	17	0	72	2
3	Young	9	5	9	0	23	2
DISTRICT TOTAL							48

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DISTRICT GOLD STAR AWARD QUOTAS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
4	Bowie	5	8	8	0	21	2
4	Camp	2	0	1	0	3	2
4	Cass	14	11	11	0	36	2
4	Collin	34	22	23	0	79	2
4	Cooke	25	17	18	0	60	2
4	Dallas	13	12	15	0	40	2
4	Delta	1	0	3	0	4	2
4	Denton	17	22	15	0	54	2
4	Fannin	4	4	6	0	14	2
4	Franklin	1	0	1	0	2	2
4	Grayson	15	6	11	1	33	2
4	Hopkins	3	6	2	0	11	2
4	Hunt	7	7	5	0	19	2
4	Kaufman	9	11	10	0	30	2
4	Lamar	6	5	9	0	20	2
4	Morris	0	1	2	0	3	2
4	Rains	7	14	6	0	27	2
4	Red River	6	7	1	0	14	2
4	Rockwall	12	6	5	0	23	2
4	Tarrant	26	37	20	0	83	2
4	Titus	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Van Zandt	9	6	13	0	28	2
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DISTRICT GOLD STAR AWARD QUOTAS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
5	Anderson	20	8	16	0	44	2
5	Angelina	36	32	30	0	98	2
5	Cherokee	16	9	10	0	35	2
5	Gregg	6	6	3	0	15	2
5	Harrison	11	11	3	0	25	2
5	Henderson	15	11	11	0	37	2
5	Houston	7	6	3	0	16	2
5	Jasper	6	14	11	0	31	2
5	Marion	0	0	1	0	1	2
5	Nacogdoches	9	9	6	0	24	2
5	Newton	5	0	7	0	12	2
5	Panola	11	10	11	0	32	2
5	Polk	6	12	6	0	24	2
5	Rusk	9	10	7	0	26	2
5	Sabine	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	San Augustine	5	4	6	0	15	2
5	Shelby	3	4	5	0	12	2
5	Smith	12	12	11	0	35	2
5	Trinity	8	14	1	0	23	2
5	Tyler	6	3	3	0	12	2
5	Upshur	7	3	7	0	17	2
5	Wood	2	6	4	0	12	2
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DISTRICT GOLD STAR AWARD QUOTAS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
6	Andrews	10	15	12	0	37	2
6	Brewster	5	1	2	0	8	2
6	Crane	5	2	6	0	13	2
6	Crockett	2	5	3	0	10	2
6	Culberson	1	2	3	0	6	2
6	Ector	3	4	1	0	8	2
6	El Paso	12	11	12	0	35	2
6	Glasscock	2	6	8	0	16	2
6	Howard	5	1	4	0	10	2
6	Hudspeth	5	12	7	0	24	2
6	Jeff Davis	1	1	0	0	2	2
6	Martin	2	2	3	0	7	2
6	Midland	14	11	9	0	34	2
6	Pecos	4	3	6	0	13	2
6	Presidio	1	2	1	0	4	2
6	Reagan	1	0	1	0	2	2
6	Reeves	1	3	2	0	6	2
6	Terrell	1	1	0	0	2	2
6	Upton	4	5	6	0	15	2
6	Val Verde	16	12	9	0	37	2
6	Ward	10	7	8	0	25	2
6	Winkler	3	7	8	0	18	2
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DISTRICT GOLD STAR AWARD QUOTAS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
7	Brown	15	13	12	0	40	2
7	Burnet	13	11	12	0	36	2
7	Callahan	7	6	7	0	20	2
7	Coke	0	1	0	0	1	2
7	Coleman	2	3	3	0	8	2
7	Concho	4	0	2	0	6	2
7	Fisher	3	6	1	0	10	2
7	Irion	3	5	5	1	14	2
7	Jones	33	3	25	0	61	2
7	Lampasas	11	12	2	0	25	2
7	Llano	14	14	9	0	37	2
7	Mason	7	2	3	0	12	2
7	McCulloch	5	4	4	0	13	2
7	Menard	3	4	2	0	9	2
7	Mills	9	6	4	0	19	2
7	Nolan	42	28	29	0	99	2
7	Runnels	9	12	6	0	27	2
7	San Saba	5	3	4	0	12	2
7	Schleicher	0	2	3	0	5	2
7	Shackelford	1	0	2	0	3	2
7	Sterling	2	10	3	0	15	2
7	Taylor	8	8	6	0	22	2
7	Tom Green	26	26	20	0	72	2
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DISTRICT GOLD STAR AWARD QUOTAS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
8	Bell	43	35	38	0	116	3
8	Bosque	18	9	16	0	43	2
8	Comanche	3	4	3	0	10	2
8	Coryell	26	25	21	0	72	2
8	Eastland	5	2	3	0	10	2
8	Ellis	35	20	28	0	83	2
8	Erath	17	21	12	2	52	2
8	Falls	8	8	7	0	23	2
8	Freestone	8	7	10	0	25	2
8	Hamilton	11	3	0	0	14	2
8	Hill	7	20	8	1	36	2
8	Hood	5	13	7	0	25	2
8	Johnson	41	28	27	1	97	2
8	Leon	23	22	18	0	63	2
8	Limestone	7	12	10	0	29	2
8	McLennan	20	24	20	0	64	2
8	Milam	8	15	11	0	34	2
8	Navarro	6	12	11	0	29	2
8	Robertson	19	27	18	0	64	2
8	Somervell	4	3	4	0	11	2
8	Williamson	53	30	30	0	113	3
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DISTRICT GOLD STAR AWARD QUOTAS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
9	Brazoria	27	37	38	1	103	3
9	Brazos	41	35	35	0	111	3
9	Burleson	32	30	18	0	80	2
9	Chambers	19	14	6	0	39	2
9	Fort Bend	27	37	22	0	86	2
9	Galveston	30	32	23	0	85	2
9	Grimes	11	11	8	0	30	2
9	Hardin	6	6	4	0	16	2
9	Harris	54	81	43	0	178	3
9	Jefferson	19	8	7	0	34	2
9	Lee	11	14	17	0	42	2
9	Liberty	29	13	9	0	51	2
9	Madison	11	17	6	0	34	2
9	Montgomery	57	61	57	0	175	3
9	Orange	7	5	4	0	16	2
9	San Jacinto	4	11	6	0	21	2
9	Walker	34	36	22	0	92	2
9	Waller	38	41	32	0	111	3
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DISTRICT GOLD STAR AWARD QUOTAS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
10	Bandera	26	14	7	0	47	2
10	Bastrop	10	9	6	0	25	2
10	Bexar	183	159	144	0	486	5
10	Blanco	12	9	7	0	28	2
10	Caldwell	16	21	12	0	49	2
10	Comal	35	37	31	0	103	3
10	Edwards	2	1	1	0	4	2
10	Gillespie	23	23	25	0	71	2
10	Gonzales	15	20	20	0	55	2
10	Guadalupe	48	32	20	2	102	3
10	Hays	28	30	33	0	91	2
10	Kendall	61	46	41	0	148	3
10	Kerr	26	21	26	0	73	2
10	Kimble	7	3	4	0	14	2
10	Kinney	3	9	6	0	18	2
10	Medina	25	33	16	0	74	2
10	Real	14	5	10	0	29	2
10	Sutton	6	4	3	0	13	2
10	Travis	27	14	22	0	63	2
10	Uvalde	15	15	13	0	43	2
10	Wilson	33	26	31	0	90	2
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DISTRICT GOLD STAR AWARD QUOTAS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
11	Aransas	8	0	3	0	11	2
11	Austin	19	13	6	0	38	2
11	Bee	11	7	13	0	31	2
11	Calhoun	10	18	18	0	46	2
11	Colorado	7	11	7	0	25	2
11	DeWitt	18	15	18	0	51	2
11	Fayette	13	21	10	0	44	2
11	Goliad	18	14	18	0	50	2
11	Jackson	10	12	14	0	36	2
11	Karnes	4	6	8	0	18	2
11	Lavaca	25	26	21	0	72	2
11	Matagorda	13	18	19	0	50	2
11	Nueces	68	68	52	0	188	3
11	Refugio	12	7	16	0	35	2
11	San Patricio	13	18	16	0	47	2
11	Victoria	44	36	36	0	116	3
11	Washington	52	31	27	0	110	3
11	Wharton	24	25	15	0	64	2
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DISTRICT GOLD STAR AWARD QUOTAS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
12	Atascosa	18	13	14	0	45	2
12	Brooks	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Cameron	42	29	27	0	98	2
12	Dimmit	14	9	11	0	34	2
12	Duval	4	13	7	0	24	2
12	Frio	14	10	11	0	35	2
12	Hidalgo	44	56	49	0	149	3
12	Jim Hogg	0	1	3	0	4	2
12	Jim Wells	14	11	8	0	33	2
12	Kenedy	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Kleberg	29	30	45	0	104	3
12	La Salle	2	3	2	0	7	2
12	Live Oak	11	10	20	0	41	2
12	Maverick	32	24	28	0	84	2
12	McMullen	8	3	9	0	20	2
12	Starr	33	17	15	0	65	2
12	Webb	35	36	43	0	114	3
12	Willacy	2	1	3	0	6	2
12	Zapata	7	15	23	0	45	2
12	Zavala	8	5	5	0	18	2
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