



INTRODUCTION

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.

QUOTA DETERMINATION

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 **2023-2024** 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 ES237 Validation Unique Youth report from 4HOnline.

A list of the counties with their 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

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

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.

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 are 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 the 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	3	5	0	15	2
1	Briscoe	5	5	8	0	18	2
1	Carson	12	11	5	0	28	2
1	Collingsworth	10	6	6	0	22	2
1	Dallam	14	12	14	0	40	2
1	Deaf Smith	4	4	4	0	12	2
1	Donley	5	2	4	0	11	2
1	Gray	8	7	5	0	20	2
1	Hall	2	0	3	0	5	2
1	Hansford	7	7	6	0	20	2
1	Hartley	6	2	2	0	10	2
1	Hemphill	5	10	3	0	18	2
1	Hutchinson	7	4	4	0	15	2
1	Lipscomb	4	6	1	0	11	2
1	Moore	20	39	15	0	74	2
1	Ochiltree	6	1	7	0	14	2
1	Oldham	2	5	1	0	8	2
1	Potter	12	14	5	0	31	2
1	Randall	23	33	22	0	78	2
1	Roberts	5	8	6	0	19	2
1	Sherman	7	2	3	0	12	2
1	Wheeler	7	5	4	0	16	2
DISTRICT TOTAL							44

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DISTRICT GOLD STAR AWARD QUOTAS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
2	Bailey	2	2	0	0	4	2
2	Borden	4	1	3	0	8	2
2	Castro	2	3	1	0	6	2
2	Cochran	4	4	4	0	12	2
2	Crosby	2	5	3	0	10	2
2	Dawson	8	1	7	0	16	2
2	Floyd	6	10	10	0	26	2
2	Gaines	4	4	4	0	12	2
2	Garza	2	5	1	0	8	2
2	Hale	16	15	5	0	36	2
2	Hockley	4	4	5	0	13	2
2	Lamb	9	9	4	0	22	2
2	Lubbock	37	31	28	0	96	2
2	Lynn	9	9	10	0	28	2
2	Mitchell	4	1	2	0	7	2
2	Parmer	10	10	5	0	25	2
2	Scurry	10	7	16	0	33	2
2	Swisher	10	9	5	0	24	2
2	Terry	6	3	8	0	17	2
2	Yoakum	1	3	2	0	6	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	12	7	0	34	2
3	Baylor	10	11	4	0	25	2
3	Childress	8	5	6	0	19	2
3	Clay	9	14	9	0	32	2
3	Cottle	0	2	0	0	2	2
3	Dickens	4	3	5	0	12	2
3	Foard	3	3	4	0	10	2
3	Hardeman	9	7	3	0	19	2
3	Haskell	8	0	4	0	12	2
3	Jack	5	7	5	0	17	2
3	Kent	6	1	1	0	8	2
3	King	1	0	0	0	1	2
3	Knox	9	3	3	0	15	2
3	Montague	10	10	4	0	24	2
3	Motley	2	3	1	0	6	2
3	Palo Pinto	14	14	8	0	36	2
3	Parker	53	22	22	0	97	2
3	Stephens	6	5	3	0	14	2
3	Stonewall	5	6	3	0	14	2
3	Throckmorton	11	13	13	0	37	2
3	Wichita	13	11	9	0	33	2
3	Wilbarger	11	6	4	0	21	2
3	Wise	33	34	25	0	92	2
3	Young	4	7	4	0	15	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	3	11	4	0	18	2
4	Camp	4	3	1	0	8	2
4	Cass	11	1	4	0	16	2
4	Collin	31	33	24	0	88	2
4	Cooke	19	7	10	0	36	2
4	Dallas	3	11	4	0	18	2
4	Delta	0	0	1	0	1	2
4	Denton	29	18	14	0	61	2
4	Fannin	3	1	5	0	9	2
4	Franklin	3	2	2	0	7	2
4	Grayson	19	15	10	0	44	2
4	Hopkins	28	26	30	0	84	2
4	Hunt	11	9	5	0	25	2
4	Kaufman	11	21	7	0	39	2
4	Lamar	8	6	7	0	21	2
4	Morris	3	3	2	0	8	2
4	Rains	14	15	13	0	42	2
4	Red River	8	5	7	0	20	2
4	Rockwall	6	15	6	0	27	2
4	Tarrant	31	52	27	0	110	3
4	Titus	4	1	1	0	6	2
4	Van Zandt	11	14	6	0	31	2
DISTRICT TOTAL							45

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DISTRICT GOLD STAR AWARD QUOTAS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
5	Anderson	6	4	5	0	15	2
5	Angelina	26	28	16	0	70	2
5	Cherokee	15	12	12	0	39	2
5	Gregg	5	8	4	0	17	2
5	Harrison	14	9	3	0	26	2
5	Henderson	32	14	26	0	72	2
5	Houston	14	12	11	0	37	2
5	Jasper	5	12	12	0	29	2
5	Marion	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Nacogdoches	11	8	6	0	25	2
5	Newton	2	7	2	0	11	2
5	Panola	5	6	4	0	15	2
5	Polk	8	12	2	0	22	2
5	Rusk	17	20	12	0	49	2
5	Sabine	1	0	2	0	3	2
5	San Augustine	5	5	7	0	17	2
5	Shelby	3	4	7	0	14	2
5	Smith	6	17	12	0	35	2
5	Trinity	6	9	6	0	21	2
5	Tyler	1	5	3	0	9	2
5	Upshur	6	13	8	0	27	2
5	Wood	3	6	3	0	12	2
DISTRICT TOTAL							42

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DISTRICT GOLD STAR AWARD QUOTAS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
6	Andrews	11	11	12	0	34	2
6	Brewster	4	1	3	0	8	2
6	Crane	12	6	7	0	25	2
6	Crockett	5	4	8	0	17	2
6	Culberson	1	1	1	0	3	2
6	Ector	2	6	3	0	11	2
6	El Paso	11	13	11	0	35	2
6	Glasscock	10	7	6	0	23	2
6	Howard	9	10	9	0	28	2
6	Hudspeth	6	4	10	0	20	2
6	Jeff Davis	1	1	1	0	3	2
6	Martin	5	5	6	0	16	2
6	Midland	15	23	7	0	45	2
6	Pecos	11	4	5	0	20	2
6	Presidio	0	1	1	0	2	2
6	Reagan	2	3	0	0	5	2
6	Reeves	6	1	3	0	10	2
6	Terrell	1	1	0	0	2	2
6	Upton	2	3	1	0	6	2
6	Val Verde	14	11	7	0	32	2
6	Ward	17	10	11	0	38	2
6	Winkler	21	10	6	0	37	2
DISTRICT TOTAL							44

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DISTRICT GOLD STAR AWARD QUOTAS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
7	Brown	27	15	12	0	54	2
7	Burnet	15	15	17	0	47	2
7	Callahan	11	6	4	0	21	2
7	Coke	0	1	0	0	1	2
7	Coleman	4	2	1	0	7	2
7	Concho	3	3	4	0	10	2
7	Fisher	2	0	2	0	4	2
7	Irion	8	2	0	0	10	2
7	Jones	38	27	28	0	93	2
7	Lampasas	6	6	4	0	16	2
7	Llano	18	18	20	0	56	2
7	Mason	11	9	8	0	28	2
7	McCulloch	3	7	8	0	18	2
7	Menard	8	1	7	0	16	2
7	Mills	1	4	5	0	10	2
7	Nolan	47	50	54	0	151	3
7	Runnels	10	7	9	0	26	2
7	San Saba	4	3	0	0	7	2
7	Schleicher	1	4	1	0	6	2
7	Shackelford	2	6	1	0	9	2
7	Sterling	2	7	4	0	13	2
7	Taylor	16	10	2	0	28	2
7	Tom Green	27	23	21	0	71	2
DISTRICT TOTAL							47

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DISTRICT GOLD STAR AWARD QUOTAS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
8	Bell	55	36	45	0	136	3
8	Bosque	10	8	9	0	27	2
8	Comanche	4	2	9	0	15	2
8	Coryell	28	30	20	0	78	2
8	Eastland	1	3	10	0	14	2
8	Ellis	38	21	24	0	83	2
8	Erath	25	22	22	0	69	2
8	Falls	12	10	4	0	26	2
8	Freestone	10	14	10	0	34	2
8	Hamilton	5	0	1	0	6	2
8	Hill	7	10	5	0	22	2
8	Hood	15	11	8	0	34	2
8	Johnson	33	21	29	0	83	2
8	Leon	25	20	24	0	69	2
8	Limestone	5	7	8	0	20	2
8	McLennan	39	29	20	0	88	2
8	Milam	9	19	16	0	44	2
8	Navarro	14	19	15	0	48	2
8	Robertson	35	29	27	0	91	2
8	Somervell	6	7	2	0	15	2
8	Williamson	53	44	28	0	125	3
DISTRICT TOTAL							44

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DISTRICT GOLD STAR AWARD QUOTAS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
9	Brazoria	60	39	26	0	125	3
9	Brazos	67	42	35	0	144	3
9	Burleson	28	42	21	0	91	2
9	Chambers	23	11	7	0	41	2
9	Fort Bend	33	40	29	0	102	3
9	Galveston	33	24	27	0	84	2
9	Grimes	17	16	8	0	41	2
9	Hardin	13	10	4	0	27	2
9	Harris	95	98	78	0	271	4
9	Jefferson	20	17	5	0	42	2
9	Lee	17	16	11	0	44	2
9	Liberty	21	18	14	0	53	2
9	Madison	14	14	20	0	48	2
9	Montgomery	74	72	47	0	193	3
9	Orange	8	10	5	0	23	2
9	San Jacinto	3	5	5	0	13	2
9	Walker	28	30	20	0	78	2
9	Waller	25	22	28	0	75	2
DISTRICT TOTAL							42

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DISTRICT GOLD STAR AWARD QUOTAS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
10	Bandera	20	19	13	0	52	2
10	Bastrop	11	13	8	0	32	2
10	Bexar	163	128	90	0	381	4
10	Blanco	4	12	11	0	27	2
10	Caldwell	19	17	20	0	56	2
10	Comal	34	39	26	0	99	2
10	Edwards	2	0	2	0	4	2
10	Gillespie	30	26	28	0	84	2
10	Gonzales	23	13	11	0	47	2
10	Guadalupe	46	35	39	0	120	3
10	Hays	31	29	27	0	87	2
10	Kendall	41	36	32	0	109	3
10	Kerr	28	23	17	0	68	2
10	Kimble	12	2	4	0	18	2
10	Kinney	5	5	1	0	11	2
10	Medina	21	17	25	0	63	2
10	Real	7	9	5	0	21	2
10	Sutton	0	5	3	0	8	2
10	Travis	8	23	12	0	43	2
10	Uvalde	28	16	15	0	59	2
10	Wilson	29	36	26	0	91	2
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DISTRICT	COUNTY	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE	POST H.S.	TOTAL	QUOTA
11	Aransas	7	6	4	0	17	2
11	Austin	33	25	18	0	76	2
11	Bee	14	12	14	0	40	2
11	Calhoun	13	23	10	0	46	2
11	Colorado	7	4	8	0	19	2
11	DeWitt	18	25	14	0	57	2
11	Fayette	26	23	22	0	71	2
11	Goliad	19	11	12	0	42	2
11	Jackson	12	9	8	0	29	2
11	Karnes	13	9	3	0	25	2
11	Lavaca	21	28	28	0	77	2
11	Matagorda	18	11	14	0	43	2
11	Nueces	53	63	39	0	155	3
11	Refugio	6	6	7	0	19	2
11	San Patricio	18	20	18	0	56	2
11	Victoria	47	39	37	0	123	3
11	Washington	37	33	33	0	103	3
11	Wharton	27	23	19	0	69	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	23	12	18	0	53	2
12	Brooks	1	5	2	0	8	2
12	Cameron	35	60	23	0	118	3
12	Dimmit	6	10	3	0	19	2
12	Duval	8	4	8	0	20	2
12	Frio	18	18	16	0	52	2
12	Hidalgo	48	50	49	0	147	3
12	Jim Hogg	6	5	3	0	14	2
12	Jim Wells	16	13	12	0	41	2
12	Kenedy	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Kleberg	23	33	18	0	74	2
12	LaSalle	9	10	2	0	21	2
12	Live Oak	13	8	10	0	31	2
12	Maverick	15	28	19	0	62	2
12	McMullen	2	2	4	0	8	2
12	Starr	20	33	32	0	85	2
12	Webb	24	32	30	0	86	2
12	Willacy	3	9	5	0	17	2
12	Zapata	21	24	22	0	67	2
12	Zavala	14	6	5	0	25	2
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