

# Texas 4-H

# CHAMPION SCHOOL

## Program

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### ABOUT US

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

In an effort to grow the local 4-H program and build a membership that is more reflective of the diversity of Texas communities, the Texas 4-H Champion School Program was established. As part of the Texas 4-H Champion School Program, a 4-H club is established in partnership with a school to take the 4-H club experience to the youth instead of expecting the youth to find a 4-H club within their community. Texas 4-H Champion School Programs can be organized to take place during the school day or in an after-school setting. The key is to gain the support of school leadership, foster the engagement of teachers as volunteers, offer projects that are of interest to the youth and supported by the school, and engage parents in the program.

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### SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

## WHAT DO YOU RECEIVE?

- 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 CONSIDERATION TIMELINE

- Fall 2023 | Intent to Apply
- Fall 2023 | Planning Workshop with Project Leaders and/or staff
- Fall 2023 | Agent Presentation during School In-Service
- May/June 2024 | Completion of Texas 4-H Champion School Program

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### AGENT EXPECTATIONS

# 01. ABOUT US

## WHAT IS TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is a vast network of Extension offices and professionals that serve all 254 counties in Texas. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service serves to provide education to all residents and our educational programs are designed to improve the overall health and wellness of individuals, families, and communities.

## WHAT IS 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.

## WHAT IS 4-H

4-H is a national organization which helps young people develop life-long 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 suitable to their needs. 4-H also helps to provide opportunities for families and communities to develop stronger bonds.

Young people in 4-H learn about citizenship, leadership, foods and nutrition, healthy lifestyles, veterinary science, mechanics and technology, horticulture, agriculture, and other subjects. To teach young people about these 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.

## 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.

**HANDS** stands for larger service, workforce preparedness, useful skills, science and technology literacy.

**HEALTH** stands for better living, healthy lifestyles.

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.*

# 02. WHAT IS A TEXAS 4-H CHAMPION SCHOOL

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

In an effort to grow the local 4-H program and build a membership that is more reflective of the diversity of Texas communities, the Texas 4-H Champion School Program was established. As part of the Texas 4-H Champion School Program, a 4-H club is established in partnership with a school to take the 4-H club experience to the youth instead of expecting the youth to find a 4-H club within their community. Texas 4-H Champion School Programs can be organized to take place during the school day or in an after-school setting. The key is to gain the support of school leadership, foster the engagement of teachers as volunteers, offer projects that are of interest to the youth and supported by the school, and engage parents in the program.

## APPLY

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

## PROJECT EXPERIENCES

**Offer project experiences in at least ONE** of the Texas 4-H Big 5 Areas which are:

1. Agriculture and Livestock
2. Family & Community Health
3. Natural Resources
4. Leadership & Citizenship
5. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

You may also offer project experiences in other areas based on the interests of the school. They must have at least 6 learning experiences and 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 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

- Program can consist of more than one project series per school year

## 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. 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.

## 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.

## 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

## WHAT DO YOU RECEIVE AS A TEXAS 4-H CHAMPION SCHOOL

- 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

# 03. 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

- Fall 2022 | Planning Workshop with Project Leaders and/or staff
- Fall 2022 | Agent Presentation during School In-Service
- December 2022 | Intent to Apply
- May/June 2023 | Completion of Texas 4-H Champion School Program

- Contact the school by Summer 2022
- Provide schools with a copy of the Texas 4-H Champion School Guide
- Provide schools with a copy of the Texas 4-H Champion School Intent to Apply Online Link and application.

## PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

- Submit that application to your District 4-H Specialist
- 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 District 4-H 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

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact your local extension office with any questions.

Name:

Phone:

E-mail:

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service**

[AgriLifeExtension.tamu.edu](http://AgriLifeExtension.tamu.edu)

More Extension publications can be found at [AgriLifeBookstore.org](http://AgriLifeBookstore.org)

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

# TEXAS 4-H CHAMPION SCHOOL PROGRAM

## 2022-2023 INTENT TO APPLY

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  
\_\_\_\_\_ Fall Semester Only      \_\_\_\_\_ Spring 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:

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For any questions please contact your local Agrilife Extension agent.

<https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/contact/>

