**QUALIFYING CRITERIA AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation is seeking qualified applicants, for scholarships which will be awarded to current 4-H members, pursuing a post-secondary education at any technical, vocational or other school of higher education.

Scholarship applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible to apply for, or to be awarded, a Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation Scholarship:

1. Must be currently enrolled in an organized 4-H club with the Texas AgriLife Extension, in the 4-H program of Hidalgo County for a minimum of 3 of the 4 years in high school (high school years only). Larger scholarships may be available to applicants with highest total scores if they had a minimum of 6 years of active 4-H involvement. Proof of enrollment on 4-H Connect is necessary.
2. Must be an active member of an organized 4-H club during each of the three years. An active member is one who has attended a minimum of 75% of all their club meetings for each year. This is to be validated by the club manager by signing this application.
3. Must have made formal application to enroll in any technical, vocational or other school of higher education (field of study unrestricted).
4. Must have all applicable pages completed.
5. Must be accompanied by the student’s official transcript for their entire high school education to date (9th-12th), signed by a school records official, with certified school seal and include proof of ACT/SAT test scores (if required by college).*.*
6. Do not change the font name or size or alter this application.
7. Applicant must be a graduating High School Senior.
8. Must be typewritten, except for Application Checklist.
9. Contain **all** requested signatures and initials on the checklist.
10. Contain no supplemental pages that are not requested or required.
11. Submit a digital head shot photo to 4hfoundation@gmail.com
12. The Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation and the Scholarship Committee have the right to refuse and/or retract any scholarship application or scholarship award during the judging, awarding, or post awarding process. Refusal/retraction can be based, but not limited to, nonfactual and incorrect information provided in the application.
13. The Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation will not accept or consider any late application.

All supporting documentation is required for the application to be considered complete.

Application and supporting documents must be signed, mailed and postmarked

by **January 13, 2024 by certified mail to:**

HIDALGO COUNTY 4-H FOUNDATION

P.O Box 2743

Edinburg, Tx. 78540

**OR Submit by Email to**

4hfoundation@gmail.com by 11:59pm January 13, 2024

**SELECTION PROCESS**

The Scholarship Selection Committee of the Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation will meet to review and screen all scholarship applications. Applications will be reviewed to ensure they meet the minimum criteria required. Following the review process, each selected applicant will participate in an oral interview on **Sunday February 4, 2024**. Applicants are scored on the following categories:

1. Application Process/Completion and Sections
2. Oral Interview

The number of scholarships awarded and the amount of those scholarships will be determined each year by the Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation board of directors. All applicants will be notified in writing of the judging results. The decision of the judges is final. Applications, scores, rankings and related judging documents are confidential.

College scholarships will be awarded to graduating 4-H members planning to attend a technical, vocational or other school of higher education. Emphasis will be placed on 4-H participation, accomplishments, leadership and other activities outside the 4-H. Scholarships will be awarded to recipients at the Spring Scholarship Banquet in 2024.

The Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of age, socio-economic level, race, color, sex, religion, handicap or national origin.

**SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS**

*Scholarships* ***will not*** *be funded until all requirements have been met.*

1) Scholarship recipients must enroll in a technical, vocational or other school of higher education within one year of their high school graduation or they will forfeit their scholarship.

2) Recipients must maintain a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

3) For the duration of the scholarship, the recipient must enroll in and successfully complete a minimum of 12 semester hours, during both the fall and spring semester, at an accredited college/university, technical or vocational school.

4) **Thank you letter:** Mail in one handwritten “Thank You” letter on or before **August 15th** to the Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation. Requirements for “Thank You” letter are in the scholarship handbook. Make an effort to meet the members of the Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation Board, scholarship sponsors and contributors to the Country Hoedown. Meeting and knowing these people makes writing the “Thank You” letter easier.

5) **Course schedule:** Copy of fall semester course schedule is due on or before the deadline date of **August 15th**.

6) Failure to submit required documents to the Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation by the deadline dates listed in the Scholarship Handbook will forfeit that first semester scholarship payment.

7) **Deferment:** To defer your scholarship, written request must be submitted to the Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation by certified mail prior to the deadline date. Guidelines for deferment are in the scholarship handbook.

9) **Probation:** Recipients are placed on scholastic probation for:

1. failure to maintain the required cumulative grade point average **OR**
2. failure to maintain the minimum 12 semester hours per term **OR**
3. failure to submit required documents.

 If placed on probation, recipients will NOT receive their scholarship payment while on probation.

10) **Transcripts-** Recipients must furnish the Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation with copies of their grades from the fall, spring, and for any summer semester(s) in accordance with the following provisions:

1. Grades are to be sent to the Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation in the form of an “unofficial transcript”. This can be downloaded from the internet grade system of their institution provided the recipient’s name is included on this documentation. Grades should be postmarked by deadline dates listed in Scholarship Handbook.
2. The Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation Board of Directors is fully aware that sometimes semester grades are not ready by our deadlines. It is the scholarship recipient’s responsibility to turn in what they have at the time of the deadline along with a letter explaining why grades are missing and when they will be mailed.

***All scholarship policies, requirements and deadlines are given in full detail in the 2024 Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation Handbook. If you are awarded a scholarship, you will receive a copy of this handbook at the Spring Scholarship Banquet.***

**4-H FOUNDATION MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

After the application is reviewed, applicants who meet all the application requirements and criteria will proceed to the personal interview. This interview will take place on **Sunday February 4, 2024**, at the Hidalgo County 4-H Extension office. The interview will be conducted by a panel of judges.

Prior to the interview process visit our website, at [www.4hfoundation.net](http://www.4hfoundation.net), to review the memorial scholarship biographies. Be prepared to elaborate on a 4-H Scholarship Memorial Biographical History as part of the interview process. It would also be to your advantage to learn about the Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation before your interview.

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

**Last Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **First Name**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***The following materials are required to qualify for the Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation Scholarship.***

**Initial each line – Do not place a check mark in main box**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I completed the online Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation Scholarship Application

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I submitted my high school scholastic record including Fall 2023 grades and unmodified **official** transcript.

 *(If Fall 2023 grades are not included on transcript attach a current report card.)*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I submitted a copy of my official SAT and/or ACT score notification report if required by the college attending.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I have met the minimum requirements listed below (place a check in each box):

 I am enrolled through 4-H Connect with the Texas AgriLife Extension in an organized Hidalgo

 County 4-H Club and have been for a minimum of 3 of my 4 high school years.

 I am an active member of a Hidalgo County 4-H Club during each of the three years.

*(Attended a minimum of 75% of all their club meetings for each year.)*

 I have made formal application to a technical, vocational or other school of higher education.

 I am a graduating high school senior.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I provided proof of enrollment on 4-H Connect for the current 2023-2024 year.

*(Can be found in the history section of the member’s 4-H Connect page after login.)*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I have submitted a digital head shot photo to 4hfoundation@gmail.com

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I have included a recommendation letter from my club manager or project leader.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_All application forms and attachments have original signatures

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_If selected for a scholarship interview and/or award, I agree to attend the mandatory scholarship interview, banquet, and any awards assembly and donor recognition event conducted by or associated with the Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation.

I certify that the information contained herein is correct and truthfully reflects my personal, 4-H and academic background and records. I agree that, if any information contained herein is found to be falsified in any way, my application will automatically become null and void.

I hereby authorize any person, firm or entity to release, to the Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation, information concerning the subject matter of the statements I have made in this application including, but not limited to, information concerning my academic record, activities, honors and awards, citizenship or residency. A copy of this authorization is agreed by the undersigned to have the same effect and force as an original. Any person, firm or entity releasing matters pursuant to this authorization is hereby absolved from any liability.

**Signature of Applicant** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Parent/Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\*Signature of Club Manager** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***\*Club Manager certifies applicant is/was an active member of their club during each of three high school years and has attended a minimum of 75% of all their club meetings for each of these years.***

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

**TYPING IS MANDATORY**

 **DO NOT ADD PAGES TO THE APPLICATION**

**Last Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **First Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Nick Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **e-mail \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Home Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Name of High School \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Numerical Rank in Class \_\_\_\_\_\_ /\_\_\_\_\_\_** **Number in Graduating Class \_\_\_\_\_\_** **SAT Score \_\_\_\_\_\_ ACT Score \_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Name of Parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parents Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Number of years enrolled in Hidalgo County 4-H Club(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_ Name of 4-H Club(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**ESSAY QUESTIONS:**

**From a goal oriented stand point…**

1. **What are your goals through college and your career? How has 4H prepared you to reach those goals?**

*(use space provided, do not add additional pages)*

**B) What has 4-H meant to you?** *(use space provided, do not add additional pages)*

**4-H PROJECTS:**

List your most significant 4-H projects throughout your entire 4-H career. Describe years involved, knowledge and skills gained, scope and activity of projects, demonstrations, talks, exhibits, workshops, tours, interviews, etc. Describe why these projects were important and significant and what impact your involvement had on other people.

Put emphasis on the quality of your experience, rather than the quantity of experiences.

*Please reference the level of participation/involvement as:*

*L=local, C=county, D=district, R=regional, S=state, N=national, and I=international.*

**DO NOT ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES BY EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF ROOM PROVIDED.**

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| **Year(s)** | **Project** | **Level of** **Involvement** | **Role, Responsibility, Duties, Accomplishments, etc.** *(200 characters each)* |
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**4-H LEADERSHIP ROLES:**

List your most significant 4-H leadership roles, throughout your 4-H career.

Include volunteer, promotion, and elected/appointed leadership.

Put emphasis on the quality of your experience, rather than the quantity of experiences.

*Please reference the level of participation/involvement as:*

*L=local, C=county, D=district, R=regional, S=state, N=national, and I=international.*

**DO NOT ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES BY EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF ROOM PROVIDED.**

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| **Year(s)** | **Leadership Role** | **Level of Involvement** | **Role, Responsibilities, Duties and/or Accomplishments** *(75 characters each)* |
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**4-H CITIZENSHIP AND 4-H COMMUNITY SERVICE:**

List your most significant 4-H citizenship and community service projects, throughout your 4-H career.

Include why your citizenship and community service projects were important and what impact your involvement had on others.

Put emphasis on the quality of your experience, rather than the quantity of experiences.

*Please reference role as:*

*Y=performed yourself, M=member of a group, P=provided primary leadership to the group.*

**DO NOT ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES BY EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF ROOM PROVIDED.**

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| **Year(s)** | **Activity** | **Role** | **Why it was important to me and/or the impact of my involvement** *(125 characters each)* |
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**4-H HONORS:**

List your most important honors received throughout your 4-H career.

List the honor, year received, level of award and why you consider the honors listed to be the most important.

Put emphasis on the quality of your experience, rather than the quantity of experiences.

*Please reference the level of the award as:*

*L=local, C=county, D=district, R=regional, S=state, N=national, and I=international.*

**DO NOT ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES BY EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF ROOM PROVIDED.**

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| **Year(s)** | **Honor Received** | **Level of Award** | **Why this honor is important and/or the impact of my involvement***(160 characters each)* |
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**NON-4-H PROJECTS, LEADERSHIP, CITIZENSHIP/COMMUNITY SERVICE AND HONORS:**

List your most important activities and/or honors received outside of 4-H.

List the honor, year received, level of award and why you consider the honors listed to be the most important.

Put emphasis on the quality of your experience, rather than the quantity of experiences.

*Please reference the level of your involvement/award as:*

*L=local, C=county, D=district, R=regional, S=state, N=national, and I=international.*

**DO NOT ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES BY EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF ROOM PROVIDED.**

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| **Year(s)** | **Activity/Honor** | **Level of Involvement/Award** | **Role, Responsibilities, Duties, Accomplishments and/or Importance***(115 characters each)* |
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**NARRATIVE:**

In the space below write a narrative about yourself.

Point out any important facts you would like the committee to know.

*(use space provided, do not add additional pages)*

**CERTIFICATION OF APPLICANT:**

I am submitting the necessary scholarship application and required documents for consideration, for the Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation Scholarship. I certify that the information contained herein is correct and truthfully reflects my personal 4-H and academic background and records.

**Signature of Applicant**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_