

# APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

4-H Water Ambassadors gain advanced knowledge and develop leadership skills related to the science, technology, engineering and management of water in Texas.



**Winner—2019 TCEQ Texas Environmental Excellence Award**

## ELIGIBILITY

The role of a 4-H Water Ambassador requires youth who are dedicated, mature, dependable and interested in water and natural resources. To be considered for selection, youth must:

- Be in high school or entering high school in the 2020/2021 academic year
- Be 14 years of age or older by August 31, 2020
- Be a current 4-H member, or be willing to join a local 4-H club if selected

## EXPECTATIONS

4-H Water Ambassadors accept the responsibility of educating youth and adults in their communities and beyond. They are committed to advancing their understanding of water throughout their term of service. Those selected must:

- Participate in the summer 2020 Tier I 4-H2O Leadership Academy
- Commit to a minimum of 40 hours of education/service annually
- Notify and meet with his/her County Extension Agent regarding the new leadership role
- Report activities regularly and maintain contact with the 4-H2O Program Coordinator
- Pay the \$250 program participation fee by due date

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted on-line at  
<https://fs4.formsite.com/state4h/water/index.html>

## IMPORTANT DATES

**March 15, 2020**—Applications open

**May 1, 2020**—Applications close

**May 15, 2020**—Applicants notified of acceptance status

**June 1, 2020**—\$250 fee due

**July 11-18, 2020**—Tier I 4-H2O Leadership Academy (tour)

*See back for  
more details*



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program provides high school youth an opportunity to gain advanced knowledge and develop leadership skills related to the science, technology, engineering, and management of water in Texas. By connecting with water professionals, youth gain exposure and recognition as water leaders, learn about internship opportunities, and explore the diverse career paths in the water industry. The 4-H Water Ambassadors Program is led by Texas 4-H and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, and supported by the Texas Water Industry and Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation.

Each year, up to (30) youth are selected to join the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program. Those chosen participate in an 8-day, summer Tier I 4-H2O Leadership Academy (tour). Over the next year, ambassadors commit to a minimum (40) hours of education and service.

### Tier I 4-H2O Leadership Academy

The Leadership Academy is an experiential, educational tour exposing youth to a wide range of water resources, water uses, ecosystems, and water quality concerns. Ambassadors learn about applied research and technology, water law, policy, planning, and management strategies employed to conserve this valued resource. As they meet and interact with leaders in the Texas water industry, water ambassadors gain an appreciation for the complexity of managing surface and groundwater, and develop a broad perspective of the value of water to local, regional and state economies. The 4-H2O Leadership Academy is made possible by private industry and foundation sponsors.

### Leadership, Mentorship, & Community Service

Water ambassadors commit to a minimum (40) hours of service over a 12-month period following the Leadership Academy. Service hours are earned by delivering water education at local 4-H clubs, schools, fairs, and other community events. Credit is also earned by assisting local water utilities, groundwater conservation districts, and County Extension Agents to conduct water outreach activities. Additional credit is awarded to water ambassadors who complete continuing education opportunities and assignments administered by the 4-H2O Program Coordinator.

## OBJECTIVES

- Experience the wide diversity of water resources, water uses, sensitive ecosystems, and water quality concerns throughout the state.
- Gain insight into water law, policy, and planning strategies to protect and preserve surface and groundwater resources.

- Understand the importance of water to local, regional, and state economies.
- Develop valuable leadership and communication skills while educating others.
- Learn about career opportunities in the water industry.

## BENEFITS OF BEING A 4-H WATER AMBASSADOR

- Serve as statewide 4-H Youth Development leader accorded the respect appropriate to this role.
- Play an important part in educating others in your community and state on the importance of water.
- Serve in an environment to explore career opportunities in the water industry and beyond.
- Gain deep insight into the governance and management of state and private water resources.
- Meet and interact with water industry professionals, and gain access to a myriad of water education tools and resources.

## APPLICATION INFORMATION

The online application requires (3) short essays, (2) letters of recommendation, and a 1-2 minute video.

**Essays:** 1) In 500 words or less, discuss your LEADERSHIP and TEAMWORK experiences for community, club, county, district, state, and national areas. Include activities from 4-H, school, and other groups. 2) In 500 words or less, what are the most important water issues facing your community/region? 3) In 500 words or less, describe the water-related topic or issue that you find most interesting, and why.

### Letters of Recommendation (Two required).

Recommendation letters may come from county extension agents, teachers, 4-H club leaders, and others who can attest to your scholarship and character. Letters should not be from family members. Applicants upload letters in the online application system. Letters should highlight the applicant's leadership qualities, communication skills, and other personal attributes that would support the individual becoming an effective 4-H Water Ambassador.

**Video:** Record and provide a link to a 1 to 2 minute video introducing yourself and answering the question "*why do you want to become a 4-H water ambassador*"?