



INSTRUCTIONS/CRITERIA

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 with the Texas AgriLife Extension in an organized 4-H club, 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 and will be verified for eligibility by **December 30, 2011**.
- 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) 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) Guidance Counselor Certification form must show most recent Grade Point Averages (GPA's) based on a 100 point scale and be UNWEIGHTED, with a class ranking. *This must be explained to the applicant's school counselor, principal or grade clerk. All scholarships are evaluated on this scale and failure of a school to provide a class ranking and an **un-weighted** GPA on a 100 point scale can result in disqualification of the application.*
- 7) Do not change the font name or size or alter this application.
- 8) Applicant must be a graduating High School Senior.
- 9) Be typewritten, except for original signatures.
- 10) Contain all requested signatures and initials on the checklist.
- 11) Contain no supplemental pages that are not requested or required.
- 12) Include a 4 X 6 or wallet size photo.
- 13) Include 3 letters of recommendation with original signatures.
- 14) 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.
- 15) The Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation will not accept or consider any late application.
- 16) Complete applications must be signed, mailed and post marked by **January 9, 2012**. Send to the 4-H Foundation post office box at the address below:

HIDALGO COUNTY 4-H FOUNDATION
1616 E. Griffin Pkwy., PMB #231
Mission, TX. 78572-3180



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 **Monday, January 30, 2012**. Applicants are scored on the following categories:

1. Academics (Grade Point Average, SAT/ACT Scores)
2. Oral Interview
3. 4-H and Community Service (Church/Civic Organizations)

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 2012.

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) Mail in one handwritten "Thank You" letter on or before **May 1st** to the Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation. Requirements for "Thank You" letter are as follows and refer to scholarship handbook:
 - A) Must be handwritten. May be homemade, in other words make it personal.
 - B) Must include date and salutation, i.e. "Dear Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation Board".
 - C) Must include the scholarship name and amount you received.
 - D) Must include your intentions for the scholarship money, i.e. what school attending and what field of study you will follow.
 - E) Mail by **May 1st** to:

Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation
1616 E. Griffin Pkwy., PMB #231
Mission, TX 78572-3180

"Thank You" letter should be from the heart, with deep appreciation. Meeting the Foundation's Board of Directors at the Country Hoedown, the Spring Banquet or one of the livestock shows is a good way to help make your "Thank You" letter easier to write and more personal.



- 5) Copy of Fall Semester Course schedule, due on or before deadline date of **August 15th**.
- 6) Failure to submit the “Thank You” letter and the fall semester course schedule by their respective deadlines, to the Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation, will forfeit that first semester scholarship payment.
- 7) For a deferment of your scholarship, written request must be submitted to the Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation by **CERTIFIED MAIL PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE DATES**, refer to scholarship handbook.
- 9) **Probation** - Recipients are placed on scholastic probation for:
- A) failure to maintain the required cumulative grade point average **OR**
 - B) failure to maintain the minimum 12 semester hours per term.

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:
- A) 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 and social security number are included on this documentation. Grades should be postmarked by deadline dates listed in Scholarship Handbook.
 - B) 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 2012 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 **January 30, 2012** at Mario’s Banquet and Conference Center in Mission, Texas. Interviews will take place during school hours for some students and a letter will be provided to excuse the absence. The interview will be conducted by a panel of judges.

Prior to the interview process visit our website, at www.4hfoundation.com, 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 _____

Submitted are the following materials required for the Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation Scholarship Application.

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

_____ Completed Hidalgo County 4-H Foundation Application

_____ Completed high school scholastic record including Fall 2011 grades and unmodified **official** transcript.
(If Fall 2011 grades are not included on transcript attach a current report card.)

_____ Copy of the official SAT and/or ACT score notification report if required by the college attending.
(A copy of the report or have listed on high school transcript.)

_____ I have met the minimum requirements listed below (place a check in each box):

- Enrolled through 4-H Connect with the Texas AgriLife Extension, in an organized 4-H club in Hidalgo County for a minimum of 3 of the 4 years in high school. Proof of enrollment is necessary.
- Is 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.)
- Has made formal application to a technical, vocational or other school of higher education.
- Is a graduating high school senior.

_____ Completed Individual Scholastic Record signed by Principal or Counselor

_____ Completed Certification of 4-H Enrollment signed by Club Manager

_____ Attached photo for publicity purposes *(4 X 6 or wallet size preferred)*

_____ Attached three letters of recommendation
(example: 4-H Leader or Club Manager, Employer, Teacher or School Administrator or Church Minister)

_____ 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) _____ 4-H Club Name(s) _____

Number of years enrolled in Hidalgo County 4-H Club(s) _____

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

From a goals orientation stand point...

1) Where are you today, and where do you want to be in the future?

2) What has 4-H meant to you?



NARRATIVE:

In the space below write a narrative about yourself. Point out any important facts you would like the committee to know.

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 _____



Individual Scholastic Record:

Last Name _____ First Name _____

This record is to be completed by the applicant's High School Principal or Counselor. The completed record and related materials should be returned to the applicant to become part of their scholarship application.

1. Date of graduation: _____
Month/Year

2. Applicant's rank in graduating class: _____ Quartile Rank: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th
i.e. 11th out of 145 *Circle one*

3. High School grade point average through last completed semester: _____ **Un-Weighted**
Based on 100 point scale

4. Grading systems vary from school to school. Please complete the following so we can give this applicant fair consideration with respect to GPA.

A. Our school uses: _____ a single grading system _____ a multiple grading system with _____ levels
Check the one that applies

B. The most recent GPA shown above for the applicant is based on 100 point weighted scale _____

5. Applicant's highest S.A.T. (total) and/or A.C.T. (composite) scores: S.A.T. _____
If required by school attending A.C.T. _____

6. Include the applicant's High School transcript that includes S.A.T. and/or A.C.T. test scores, with report card stating Fall 2011 grades if not included on transcript. These complete S.A.T. and/or A.C.T. scores are needed even though you have given the totals in item 5.

7. A statement regarding this applicant is not required. If you desire to make a statement, the judging committee will welcome any added information you desire to provide. Please use only the space on the lower portion of the sheet for such a statement.

Signature: _____ Principal or Counselor Date: _____

School Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

School Address: _____ City/State/Zip Code: _____