



2023-2024

BASTROP COUNTY 4-H

AWARDS & RECOGNITION PACKET

Instructions & Important Dates
Youth Award Descriptions
Adult Award Descriptions



UPDATED MAY 02, 2024

AWARDS DESCRIPTIONS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE CURRENT
BASTROP COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL BYLAWS

<https://bastrop.agrilife.org/awards/>

or

<https://bastrop.agrilife.org/files/2023/04/Bastrop-County-4-H-Council-Bylaws-FINAL-Updated-2021-12-07.pdf>

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INSTRUCTIONS & IMPORTANT DATES

Enclosed in this packet are descriptions of the Awards and Recognition opportunities for both youth and adults that will be presented at the upcoming Bastrop County 4-H Achievement Banquet.

Please contact the Bastrop County Extension Office (referred to as CEO throughout this document) if you have any questions.

- Phone: 512-581-7186
- Fax: 512-581-7187
- Email: MLMickelson@ag.tamu.edu

Award Application Instructions:

1. Read through the Awards & Recognition Packet to figure out for which awards you qualify and would like to apply
2. Complete the online application(s) for the award(s) you selected
3. Sign up for an interview slot online
4. Complete and turn in your 4-H Recordbook (if required by the awards for which you applied)

*****Please note that the following Awards REQUIRE an Interview:*****

- Gold Star
- Silver Star
- I Dare You
- Bronze Star
- 4-H Sweetheart or Prince

Application Access & Submission Options:

- All Award Applications are available online at <https://bastrop.agrilife.org/awards/>
- There are 2 options for submission:
 - Complete and submit your application online – please make sure you see the “received” image on the webpage after submitting.
 - Download, complete, and submit the PDF application – these can be emailed, snail mailed, or brought into the CEO.

Important Dates:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| • Thursday, May 2, 2024 | Award Applications released (online) |
| • Thursday June 6, 2024 | Award Applications & Nominations due to CEO |
| • Thursday June 6, 2024 | 4-H Recordbooks due to the CEO |
| • Friday, June 14, 2024 | Award Interviews |
| • Tuesday, June 18, 2024 | County Recordbook Judging |
| • Thursday, July 11, 2024 | District Recordbook Judging; TBA |
| • Friday, August 2, 2024 | Bastrop County 4-H Achievement Banquet |

Important Websites:

- Bastrop County Extension Office: <https://bastrop.agrilife.org/>
- Bastrop County 4-H Awards Page: <https://bastrop.agrilife.org/awards/>
- Sign-Up for interview time slot: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F4FACAA2FA75-49486428-20232024>

YOUTH AWARD DESCRIPTIONS:

Year Pins:

- A year pin checklist must be submitted to determine whether a Bronze, Silver, or Gold Pin will be awarded. To be eligible for a pin, members must attend fifty percent (50%) of their club meetings after they join or for the entire year. Club managers' signatures are required.

Project Pins:

- To be eligible for a Project Pin, members must submit a completed recordbook and attend fifty percent (50%) of their club meetings. Upon request, a 4-H member may substitute a project pin in a secondary project, if properly documented in the 4-H Recordbook. (1 project pin per year)
- **Does not have an online application** – The application for a Project Pin is completing and turning in a recordbook to the CEO

District & State Winners:

- All 4-H members winning 1st place at District Contests and 1st, 2nd or 3^d place at the State level in various 4-H contests will be given an award at the 4-H Awards Banquet. Note: Animal related (livestock, rabbit and dog) shows are not eligible for this award.
- Applications will be verified with the contest/activity results.

4-H Jackets:

- 4-H members placing first at District or State level contest will have the opportunity to receive a County 4-H jacket. The Council will pay 100% of the cost of the 4-H Jacket. Each 4-H'er is allowed one jacket as a Junior or Intermediate 4-H member and one jacket as a senior 4-H member (for a maximum of two jackets in a 4-H member's career). Jackets will be uniform consisting of the same color scheme and style.
- It is the responsibility of the District and/or State winner to notify the Extension office of their award so that jackets or awards can be ordered.

District & State Officers or Committee Members:

- Bastrop County 4-H members who are elected to a District or State 4-H office or committee will receive an award for their leadership roles.
- It is the responsibility of the District and/or State winner to notify the Extension office of their award so that jackets or awards can be ordered.

Gold Star Award:

- The Gold Star Award is the highest county achievement award and intended to be received only once in a member's 4-H career. Counties have award quotas based on the number of senior 4-H members. The award will be presented to the most deserving young people without regard to sex. **The award recipients will be expected to attend the County Achievement Banquet.**
- The following criteria for selection are the minimum requirements that must be met:
 - The 4-H member must be at least fifteen years of age as of August 31 of the current year.
 - The 4-H member must have completed at least three years in 4-H including the current year.
 - The 4-H member must submit an awards program recordbook in the year he or she is to be considered for the Gold Star Award, and the previous year.
 - The 4-H member must have completed projects in three different project areas, including submission of appropriate record forms, via recordbook.
- The 4-H member must have participated in one or more activities in at least three of the following areas:
 - Method Demonstration
 - Projects and/or Project Exhibits
 - Camps
 - Leadership Labs
 - Citizenship Activities
 - Public Relations
 - Community Service
 - Other 4-H Activities
- The 4-H member must have exhibited leadership skills by having served as a 4-H officer or committee chairman at some level of 4-H organization (club, county, district or state), and/or having served as a Intermediate 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:
 - Working or counseling Junior 4-H members.
 - Participating in community service projects.
 - Motivating other 4-H members through participation in demonstrations, projects, and/or exhibits.
- **Gold Star Application:** The application consists of the completion of the online Awards Application form located on the awards page of the website in addition to the completion and submission of a 4-H recordbook on the date announced by the Extension office in the newsletter. Winner scores will be determined by application, recordbook and interview. **ONLY** in extenuating circumstances and after submitting a letter of request explaining the need, a phone interview can be granted.

Silver Star Award:

- This award will be presented to the senior age 4-H member that excels in their work, who is involved in at least three (3) different project areas but does not have as much leadership and community service experience as the Gold Star recipients.
- The application for this award consists of the completion of the online Awards Application form located on the awards page of the website in addition to the completion and submission of a 4-H recordbook on the date announced by the Extension office in the newsletter. Winners' scores will be determined by application, recordbook and interview.

Bronze Star Award:

- This award will be presented to the Intermediate age 4-H member that excels in their work, who is involved in at least two (2) different project areas, and exhibits exemplary leadership and community service experience.
- The application for this award consists of the completion of the online Awards Application located on the awards page of the website in addition to the completion and submission of a 4-H recordbook on the date announced by the Extension office in the newsletter. Winners' scores will be determined by application, recordbook and interview.

I Dare You Award:

- This award is offered as recognition of excellence in character, well balanced personal development, as well as demonstrated qualities of constructive leadership. To be eligible, the 4-H member must be at least 14 as of August 31st of the current year, complete three years in 4-H, and complete the award application process.
- The application for this award consists of the completion of the online Awards Application form located on the awards page of the website in addition to the completion and submission of a 4-H recordbook on the date announced by the Extension office in the newsletter. Winner will be determined by application, recordbook and interview.

Outstanding County Junior & Intermediate 4-H Member Awards:

- The selection of these awards will be based on the completed 4-H Recordbook that is submitted. **Two (2) Juniors and two (2) Intermediates will be selected.** To be eligible, 4-H members must carry two (2) or more projects and not have received the award in previous years.
- The application for this award consists of the completion of the online Awards Application form located on the awards page of the website in addition to the completion and submission of a 4-H recordbook on the date announced by the Extension office in the newsletter.

4-H Sweetheart & Prince:

- **Event Representation Requirements:**
 - The 4-H Sweetheart (female) & Prince (male) will represent Bastrop County 4-H at several public events throughout the given year from September 1st through August 31st.
 - Those events will include:
 - Bastrop Homecoming Parade or Bastrop Christmas Parade
 - Smithville Jamboree Parade
 - Elgin Western Day Parade
 - 4-H Cake Auction
 - 4-H Achievement Banquet
 - Bastrop County Junior Livestock Show
 - Bastrop Area Livestock Show
 - Smithville Livestock Show and Exposition
 - McDade Watermelon Festival Parade
 - The Sweetheart & Prince must attend these events to represent 4-H. If he/she cannot attend, he/she must notify the 4-H princess two weeks prior to event. Failure of the sweetheart or prince to attend three events will relinquish title.
- **Qualifications:**
 - Candidate must be eleven and not over eighteen by August 31 of the current year.
 - Candidate must be an active 4-H member for the past two years, prior to submitting their application.
 - Candidate must be selected or nominated by their 4-H Club.
 - Candidate must have submitted a 4-H Recordbook on the county level the year of submitting the application and the previous year.
 - Candidate must provide proof of an overall minimum seventy grade average with application. This may be done with a letter from your principal or with your current report card. If during her reign the Sweetheart or Prince has failing grades at report card time, they will relinquish the title.
 - Candidate must complete an application and turn it in at the County Extension Office on the date of the current year as announced by the County Extension Agent.
- 4-H members cannot serve more than one term as 4-H Sweetheart or Prince during their 4-H career.
- **Application:** The application for this award consists of the completion of the 4-H Sweetheart & Prince Form (provided to the individual nominated by the club) in addition to the completion and submission of a 4-H recordbook on the date announced by the Extension office in the newsletter
- **Selection:**
 - A panel of judges will judge the Sweetheart & Prince candidates. The judges will select a Sweetheart and a Prince.
 - Scoring will be based on 4-H Recordbook (35%), application (35%), and interview (30%).
- **Awards:** The 4-H Sweetheart will be awarded a 4-H Jacket, a crown and leather banner. The 4-H Prince will receive a 4-H Jacket, pin, and a leather banner. The crown, pin, and leather banners will be passed down from year to year and must be returned to the Extension office in August at the end of the reign.

ADULT AWARD DESCRIPTIONS:

Adult Leader Recognition:

- In five (5) year increments, leaders will be presented with leader pins.
- In order to be recognized, 4-H leaders must be signed up as a volunteer in 4-H CONNECT (<https://tx.4honline.com/>) and listed as “Active”
- There is no formal application for this recognition; the CEO will pull the information from 4-H CONNECT.

4-H Alumni Award:

- This award is goes to an individual who was a 4-H member in the past and who has made a very special contribution to 4-H through his or her time, influence, or special support.
- Each Club is eligible to nominate one (1) person for the 4-H Alumni Award
- These nominations are due in the Extension office on or before the date announced by the Extension office in the newsletter
- The application forms are located on the awards page of the website

Friend of 4-H Award:

- This award goes to an individual or business who has made a very special contribution to 4-H through his or her time, influence, or special support.
- Each Club is eligible to nominate one (1) person for Friend of 4-H Award
- These nominations are due in the Extension office on or before the date announced by the Extension office in the newsletter
- The application forms are located on the awards page of the website