



PEARLAND ISD FFA
STUDENT HANDBOOK
2022-2023

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE PEARLAND ISD FFA STUDENT HANDBOOK 2022-2023

Student Name (Please Print)

ID #

Student Signature

Campus

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

My student and I accept responsibility for accessing, reading, understanding, and following the guidelines in the “Pearland ISD FFA Student Handbook”.

I understand that the “Pearland ISD FFA Student Handbook,” “Pearland ISD Student Code of Conduct,” and school district policies contain information that my student and I may need during the school year. My child will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences. If I have questions regarding the documents listed above, I should direct those questions to the appropriate Ag Science Teacher (AST) or lead Ag Science Teacher (AST).

Student’s Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

PEARLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Alternative Travel Form #1

Alternative Travel Form #1

My child, _____ voluntarily participates in the activity of _____ I understand the district provides transportation to this activity; however my child is not able to utilize the transportation provided because _____

Check one or both statements below:

_____ *I am requesting permission that my child be permitted to drive to or from the activity with the following individual(s) _____.*

_____ *I am requesting permission for my child to drive him/herself to or from the activity (within a 30 mile radius).*

If permission is granted, I hereby give my child permission to transport him/herself within a 30 mile radius or be transported by the person indicated above.

I understand that the Pearland ISD is not responsible for any aspect of this transportation, including arranging the transportation, and cannot vouch for my child's safety while being transported to the activity. I further understand and acknowledge that the Pearland ISD will not supervise my child while he/she is being transported to or from the activity and will not be responsible should an accident occur during his/her travel to and from the activity.

I hereby release and hold harmless the Pearland ISD, its Trustees, employees, and agents from any and all liability in connection with this alternate method of travel for this school activity.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

- APPROVED
- DISAPPROVED

Coach/Teacher Signature

Date

Campus Administrator Signature

Date

PEARLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Alternative Travel Form #2

Alternative Travel Form #2

I, _____, (name of parent/guardian) acknowledge that my child, _____, voluntarily participates in the extracurricular activity of _____. I further acknowledge and understand that practices and competition for this activity take place off Pearland ISD school property. I acknowledge and understand that Pearland ISD does not provide or arrange for transportation to these activities and that parents are responsible for transporting their children to the activities.

I give permission for my child to ride to the activity of _____, with the following individual(s), _____. I understand that Pearland ISD is not responsible for any aspect of this transportation, including arranging the transportation, and cannot vouch for my child's safety while being transported.

I hereby release and hold harmless the Pearland Independent School District, its trustees, employees and agents from any and all liability in connection with the transportation of my child to and from this activity.

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Name (Please Print)

Date

Student Signature

Coach/Teacher Signature

Date

Campus Administrator Signature

Date

PEARLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
FFA Livestock Show Travel Agreement

My child, _____ voluntarily participates in the activity of
Pearland ISD FFA.

I understand the district does not provide student transportation to Livestock Shows.

I understand that my child will need to have his/her own means of transportation to livestock shows.

I understand that the Pearland ISD is not responsible for any aspect of this transportation, including
arranging the transportation, and cannot vouch for my child's safety while being transported to any
Livestock Show.

I further understand and acknowledge that the Pearland ISD will not supervise my child while he/she
is being transported to the activity and will not be responsible should an accident occur during
his/her travel to and from the activity.

I hereby release and hold harmless the Pearland ISD, its Trustees, employees, and agents from all
liability in connection with this alternate method of travel for this school activity.

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Name (Please Print)

ID #

Student Signature

Campus

Agriculture Science Teacher Signature

Date

Table of Contents

Acknowledgement of the Pearland ISD FFA Handbook.....	2
PISD Alternative Travel Forms.....	3
FFA Livestock Show Travel Agreement.....	5
Notification of Non Discrimination.....	7
PEARLAND ISD FFA CHAPTER HANDBOOK.....	8
What is FFA?.....	99
Membership Requirements.....	9
FFA Official Dress.....	10
Female Pearland ISD FFA Dress.....	10
Male Pearland ISD FFA Dress.....	10
Proper Use of the FFA Jacket.....	10
How to Wear Awards.....	11
FFA Competition Events.....	11
Raising Livestock (SAEs):.....	12
Pearland ISD FFA feeding periods.....	12
Extracurricular Activity Absences.....	12
Senior Students:.....	13
Student Eligibility for Livestock Shows.....	13
Travel to Livestock Shows.....	13
Staging Livestock.....	14
Student Conduct.....	14
Pearland ISD FFA Letter Jacket Criteria.....	15
Greenhand FFA Degree.....	16
Chapter FFA Degree.....	16
State/Lone Star FFA Degree.....	17
American FFA Degree.....	18
Stars Divisions.....	19
Proficiency Overview.....	20
Recognition.....	20
Local Scholarship Opportunities.....	21
Texas FFA Scholarships.....	21
Texas FFA Scholarship Program – Frequently Asked Questions.....	21
National FFA Scholarships.....	24
FFA Officers and Election Process.....	244
Parent Responsibilities and Expectations.....	25
Amendments	25

Public Notification of Nondiscrimination

Pearland ISD offers Career and Technical Education programs: Agriculture, Arts & A/V Production, Architecture & Construction, Business, Marketing & Finance, Human Services, Hospitality & Tourism, Information Technology, Law Enforcement, Manufacturing, STEM, and Transportation. It is the policy of the Pearland Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

It is the policy of the Pearland Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Pearland Independent School District will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs. For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Sundie Dahlkamp, Executive Director of Human Resources, at 281-485-3203, or Section 504 Coordinator, Dr. Lisa Nixon, Assistant Superintendent for Special Programs at 1928 N. Main St., Pearland, TX 77581, 281-485-3203.

Notificación Pública de No Discriminación en Programas Vocacionales

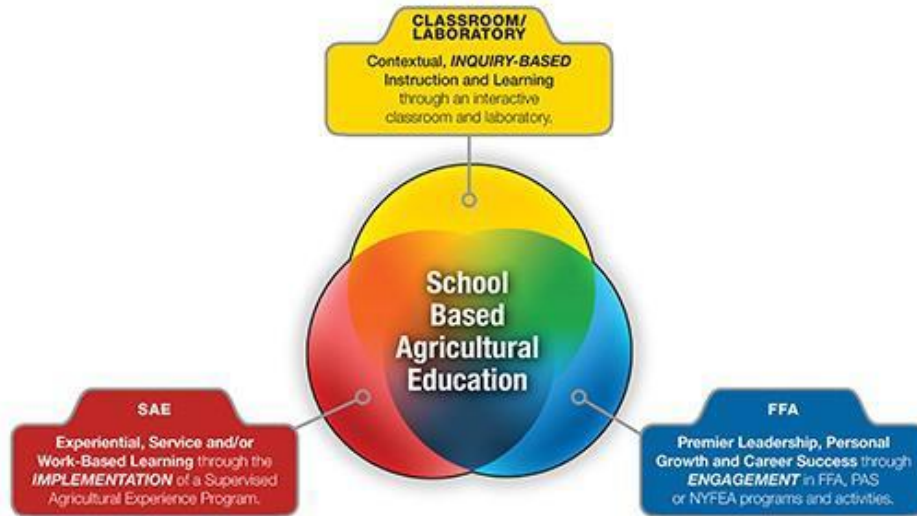
Pearland ISD ofrece programas vocacionales en Agricultura, Alimentos y Recursos Naturales; Arquitectura y Construcción, Artes, Tecnología A/V (audio/visual) y Comunicación; Negocios; Gestión y Administración de Empresas; Finanzas; Ciencia de la Salud, Hotelería y Turismo, Servicios Humanos; Tecnología de la Información, Derecho, Seguridad Pública, Correcciones y Seguridad; Manufactura; Mercadotécnica, Ventas y Servicios; Ciencia, Tecnología, Ingeniería y Matemáticas; Transporte, Distribución y Logística. La admisión a estos programas se basa en el interés y aptitud del estudiante, espacio disponible en la clase, y las normas en la guía de matriculación del programa de CTE (educación profesional y técnica).

Es un reglamento de Pearland ISD no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento físico, en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Reformas Educativas, de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Pearland ISD tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales. Para más información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos para quejas, favor de comunicarse con: el Coordinador del Título IX, Sundie Dahlkamp, Executive Director de Recursos Humanos, y/o a la Coordinadora de la Sección 504, Dr. Lisa Nixon, Assistant Superintendent Special Programs, a la dirección 1928 N. Main, Pearland, TX, 77581, o al número telefónico 281-485- 3203.

PEARLAND ISD FFA CHAPTER HANDBOOK

Agricultural education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resources systems.



Through agricultural education, students are provided opportunities for leadership development, personal growth, and career success. Agricultural education instruction is delivered through three major components:

- Classroom/Laboratory instruction (contextual learning)
- Supervised Agricultural Experience programs (work-based learning)
- Student leadership organizations (National FFA Organization)

Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE). Students with a SAE learn by doing, such as the following:

Entrepreneurship - Own and operate an agricultural business
(e.g., a lawn care service, a pay-to-fish operation, holiday poinsettia production and sales.)

Placement – Obtain a job or internship on a farm or ranch, at an agriculture-based business or in a school or factory laboratory.

Research and Experimentation - Plan and conduct a scientific experiment.
(e.g., Determine whether the phases of the moon affect plant growth, or test and determine the efficacy of different welding methods.)

Exploratory - This type of SAE is appropriate for all agriculture students. This SAE activity is designed primarily to help students become literate in agriculture and/or become aware of careers in the AFNR career cluster and results in the development of a plan to begin an SAE.

What is FFA?

FFA is a dynamic student-led leadership development organization for students of agricultural education. The FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Texas FFA has evolved from an organization focusing primarily on production agriculture, to a broader-based organization that addresses the needs and interests of students in urban and suburban schools in addition to the rural communities from which FFA rose in 1929. FFA gives students the opportunity to apply practical classroom knowledge to real world experiences through local, state, and national competitions.

Texas FFA is the nation's largest state FFA association with a membership of more than 156,363 members, and 1,082 chapters in Texas. The Texas FFA continues to help the next generation rise to meet challenges by helping its members to develop their own unique talents and explore their interests in a broad range of career pathways. We are still the Future Farmers of America, but we are the Future Biologists, Future Chemists, Future Veterinarians, Future Engineers, and Future Entrepreneurs of America.

Membership Requirements

How do I become a member?

FFA dues are \$45 which covers your membership at the National, State, Area, District and Chapter level. Once membership dues are paid, the student is eligible to participate in any FFA competition for that school year. Membership dues are due by October 1, 2022, to any Agriculture Science Teacher (AST).

Membership Requirements:

Students must read and abide by the Pearland ISD FFA Chapter Constitution and Bylaws. Students must also be a "member in good standings" to participate in any Pearland ISD FFA competitions/activities. Each FFA member must meet the following criteria:

- Member must be enrolled in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources courses during that school year
- Member must have paid dues in full
- Member must sell 10 items in the fall fundraiser (Fresh Country) or pay \$100 buyout fee.

FFA Official Dress

Texas FFA Association Policy Handbook Section 14.5: Official Dress Expectations

Female Pearland ISD FFA Dress

- Black skirt. Skirt is to be at least knee length, hemmed evenly across the bottom, with a slit no longer than two inches above the knee, excluding the kick pleat. Black slacks may be appropriate for travelling and outdoor activities.
- White collared blouse and official FFA blue scarf.
- Black dress shoes with a closed heel and toe (No boots, sandals, open-toed shoes, tennis shoes.)
- Black nylon hosiery.
- Official FFA jacket zipped to the top

Male Pearland ISD FFA Dress

- Black dress pants. (No jeans- blue or black, leather, pleather, etc.)
- White dress shirt and official FFA tie.
- Black dress shoes with a closed heel and toe (No boots, sandals, open-toed shoes, tennis shoes.)
- Black socks.
- Official FFA jacket zipped to the top.

Proper Use of the FFA Jacket

- The jacket is to be worn only by members.
- The jacket should be kept clean and neat.
- The back of the jacket should have only a large official FFA emblem, the name of the state and the name of the local chapter, region, district, or area. The front of the jacket should have only official FFA emblem, the name of the individual, one office or honor and the year of that office or honor was earned.
- The jacket should be worn on official occasions with the zipper fastened to the top. The collar should be turned down and the cuffs buttoned.
- Members and officers should wear the jacket on all FFA occasions, as well as other occasion where the chapter or state association is represented. It may be worn to school and other appropriate places.
- The jacket should only be worn to places that are appropriate for members to visit.
- School letters and insignia of other organizations should not be attached to or worn on the jacket.
- When the jacket becomes faded and worn, it should be discarded, or the emblems and lettering removed.
- The emblems and lettering should be removed if the jacket is given to or sold to a non-member.
- A member should act professionally when wearing the FFA jacket.
- Members must not be under the influence or in possession of any prohibited items as stated in the “PISD Student Code of Conduct” when representing Pearland ISD FFA. In addition, members should exhibit their leadership qualities when they encounter prohibited items and serve to discourage others from inappropriate behavior.

How to Wear Awards

- Chapter degree, officer and award medals should be worn beneath the name on the right side of the jacket.
- State FFA Degree or American Degree keys should be worn above the name on the right side of the jacket or attached to a standard key chain.
- No more than three medals should be worn on the jacket. These should represent highest degree earned, highest office held, and the highest award earned.

FFA Competition Events

Leadership Development Events (LDEs) – August through December

Leadership Development Events focus on creating situations for members to demonstrate their abilities in public speaking, decision making, communication and their knowledge of agriculture and the FFA organization. Team and individual events are used to reinforce what is taught in agricultural science classrooms. All LDE events have elimination rounds at the district and area before the state level competition.

More information can be found on the Texas FFA Website: <https://www.texasffa.org/lde>

Career Development Events (CDEs) – August through April

Career Development Events build on what is learned in agricultural classes and encourage members to put their knowledge into practice. These events are designed to help a member prepare for a career in agriculture by testing and challenging the student's technical, leadership, interpersonal and teamwork skills as well as their knowledge of the subject matter. CDEs answer the question, "When will I use this knowledge in the real world?" Many CDEs are qualifying events for the National FFA CDE competition and/or offer scholarship opportunities.

More information can be found on the Texas FFA Website: <https://www.texasffa.org/cde>

Speaking Events – October through June

Speaking Development Events are designed to develop the ability of all FFA members to express themselves on a given subject. Students are encouraged to develop their communication skills and learn to formulate their remarks for presentation in a variety of situations. The state finals of the speaking development events are held in conjunction with the Texas FFA Convention in July.

More information can be found on the Texas FFA website:
<https://www.texasffa.org/speaking-events>

Agriscience Fair

Students use the scientific process as they reinforce skills and principles, they have learned in agriscience courses. They conduct research projects and prepare a scientific report and display for judging at the state level. State winners in each category and division are awarded \$1,000 scholarship and advance to the National FFA Agriscience

Fair held in conjunction with National FFA Convention. Students can be exhibitors at Major Stock Shows for additional premiums and scholarships.

More information can be found on the Texas FFA Website: <https://www.texasffa.org/agriscience-fair>

Raising Livestock (SAEs):

Use of the Pearland ISD Ag. Facility will be limited to enrolled high school students and/or Junior FFA students with a sibling using the Ag. Facility. Parents and students must agree to abide by the rules set forth in the “Pearland ISD FFA Student Handbook” and “Pearland ISD Ag Facility Handbook” regarding the Ag Facility. Students may design their SAE in the area that they are interested in (cattle, pigs, lambs, goats, poultry, rabbits, and other).

For information regarding specific livestock species, please contact the following AST sponsoring/overseeing the species:

- Swine – Hunter or Rhonda Morgan
- Goats – Jenna Lawhorn
- Lambs – Michaela Morgan
- Breeding Heifers – Amber Brending
- Steers – Amber Campise
- Poultry – Jenna Lawhorn
- Rabbits – Michaela Morgan

Pearland ISD FFA shows two feeding periods throughout the year:

1. Feeding period - Local Show

- Pearland ISD Livestock Show & Career EXPO Brazoria
- County Fair
- State Fair of Texas

2. Feeding Period - Majors Shows

- San Antonio Livestock Expo
- Ft. Worth Stock Show & Rodeo
- Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo
- Rodeo Austin – Star of Texas

Each species timeline is different, and calendar dates for each species may be altered during the school year. Parents and students must be aware there is no guarantee that a PISD teacher will be on-site each day during any livestock show for a student’s absence to be counted as extra-curricular. Please work closely with your species’ AST to coordinate dates for extra-curricular absences. Cattle projects **do not** follow the feeding periods as stated above.

Extracurricular Activity Absences

Students who participate in extracurricular activities during the school year shall follow PISD Policy FM (LOCAL).

Senior Students:

- No senior student may start a project that will not finish before the end of the school year.
- Graduated seniors will not be allowed to utilize the Pearland ISD Ag facility. Animals will be removed from the project center at the time of load up for the last designated show and will not return to barn after designed show.
- Graduating seniors and/or students not intending to feed a livestock project for the following school year must remove all personal belongings (feed, storage containers, etc.) from the PISD Ag facility at move out of project or designated time as determined by AST. Failure to comply will result in the forfeiture of personal belongings to the PISD Ag Facility.

Student Eligibility for Livestock Shows

To participate in any livestock, show, an FFA student must meet the following requirements:

- Enrolled in PISD and a member of Pearland ISD FFA.
- All FFA dues must be paid in full.
- Be enrolled in an agriculture course.
- Have approval of AST.
- Be a member in good standing with the Pearland ISD FFA Chapter.
- Attend all mandatory livestock meetings for the specific livestock project.
- Be passing all subjects at the time eligibility is determined per UIL guidelines. If a student is ineligible due to grades, the hosting organization may have additional rules.
- Have paid entry fees on time and meet show requirements.

Travel to Livestock Shows

- Participation in livestock shows is a Pearland ISD FFA team event. Students will participate as a team and stall with the chapter.
- When Pearland ISD FFA ASTs are attending a show, the ASTs will be required to enforce any violations in ethical livestock practices as well as validation infractions.
- PISD will provide transportation, when possible, for livestock to shows and/or validations.
- PISD will not transport students to/ from livestock shows nor house students during livestock shows.
- Students and families will be required to provide their own personal transportation and housing for all livestock show activities.
- Parents must sign a PISD Alternate Transportation Form for their child(ren) prior to attending a livestock show.

Staging Livestock

Students will not be permitted to pre-stage livestock before shows to be subject to the management of the project by outside individuals or teams. Animals will be required to be maintained under the care of the student exhibitor and the AST overseeing the project, from validation until exhibition of the project has concluded.

Student Conduct

PISD Authority and Jurisdiction

School authority and rules of the district to administer discipline, apply whenever the interest of the district is involved, on or off school grounds, in conjunction with or independent of classes and school-sponsored activities. Please refer to the “Student Code of Conduct,” located on the district website located under the “Students” tab, for all guidelines.

Conduct During Overnight Trips/Activities/Events

Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) sponsors are responsible for all PISD students attending the activity/event/competition, and sponsors are responsible for ensuring student safety and appropriate behavior/conduct.

Student Behavior

Students are expected to adhere to Pearland ISD’s code of conduct and behavior expectations as well as the hosting entity’s expectations/policies. Violations may result in the student being sent home at the parent’s expense. Behavior expectations include, but are not limited to the following:

- Students shall not break curfew, set by the AST.
- Morning wake-up call will be set by the AST.
- Students must stay in designated room assignments.
- Students may not loiter outside the hotel or depart the premises without a sponsor.
- Room checks will be conducted. Each student must be visible at that time.
- Friends or family are permitted to visit FFA students with permission of the AST during set hours and location.
- Student medication must be in the possession of the AST and dispensed by the AST with a Student Medication Form on file.
- For overnight events, rooms are gender specific, and sponsors may assign students to rooms at his/her discretion. Members of the opposite sex are not permitted to enter rooms of the opposite sex at any time.
- Visual body piercings will comply with the district’s Student Code of Conduct and FFA standards.

Pearland ISD FFA Letter Jacket Criteria

To earn a letter jacket, a Pearland ISD FFA member must complete one of the following requirements:

- Advanced to the State FFA Leadership Development Event/Speaking Development Events
- Advanced to State FFA Career Development Event
- Advanced to State FFA Degree Check
- Advance to an auction at a major livestock show
- Win Breed Champion at a major livestock show
- Win division in ag science fair at a major livestock show or State FFA.
- Place Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion, or Showmanship at Pearland EXPO or Brazoria County Fair
- Banner at Area III Leadership Development Events, Career Development Events, Speaking Development Events or win an individual award.

Major Livestock Shows include:

- Ft. Worth Livestock Show
- San Antonio Livestock Exposition
- San Angelo Livestock Show
- Star of Texas Livestock Show
- Houston Livestock Show
- State Fair of Texas

The entire cost of the letter jacket, including the letter is the responsibility of the Pearland ISD FFA member. The Pearland ISD FFA Chapter will not pay for any part of the jacket or letter expenses.

Greenhand FFA Degree

FFA members enrolled in their first year of high school credit agricultural science, which have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program and that have demonstrated their understanding of the history and purpose of the FFA may apply for their Greenhand Degree. This degree of active membership is awarded at the chapter level.

To receive a Greenhand FFA Degree, members must meet the following requirements:

- Enroll in an agricultural education program and have satisfactory plans for a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE).
- Learn and explain the FFA Creed, FFA Mission and Motto, and FFA salute.
- Describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and FFA colors.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the FFA Code of Ethics and the proper use of the FFA jacket.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the history of the organization, the chapter constitution and bylaws and the chapter Program of Activities.
- Own or have access to the Official FFA Manual and the Official FFA Student Handbook.
- Submit a written application for the Greenhand FFA Degree.
- Students must complete five community service hours.

Chapter FFA Degree

Those FFA members that have received their Greenhand degree may apply for the Chapter Degree. Members must be enrolled in an agricultural science class, have completed at least two semesters in agricultural science at or above the ninth-grade level, have in operation an approved SAE program, demonstrate leadership skills, and be actively involved in the activities of the local FFA chapter. This degree of active membership is awarded at the chapter level. The Chapter FFA Degree is given to an FFA chapter's top members.

To receive a Chapter FFA Degree, members must meet the following requirements:

- Received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
- Satisfactorily completed 180 hours (or the equivalent) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth-grade level.
- Have an approved SAE in operation.
- Enrolled in an agriculture course.
- Participated in the planning and implementation of at least three official FFA chapter activities.
- Earned and productively invested at least \$150 or have worked at least 45 hours outside of scheduled class time, or a combination of the two, through their SAE.
- Have developed plans for continued growth and improvement of their SAE.
- Effectively lead a group discussion for 15 minutes.
- Demonstrated five parliamentary law procedures.
- Show progress toward achievement in FFA award programs.
- Have a satisfactory academic record.
- Submitted a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.
- Complete a minimum of 10 hours of community service activities

State/Lone Star FFA Degree

This is the highest degree of membership the State FFA Association can award. FFA members may apply to receive the Lone Star Degree only after they have received the Chapter degree. Those wishing to receive their Lone Star Degree must have been an active FFA member for at least two years, complete at least four semesters of agricultural science at or above the ninth-grade level, maintain a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program, invest significant time and money in their SAE, demonstrate their leadership skills and show a commitment to the FFA through involvement at the chapter level and above. This degree of active membership is awarded at the state level during the Texas FFA convention.

To receive a State FFA Degree, members must meet the following requirements:

- Received a Chapter FFA Degree.
- Have been an active FFA member for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree
- Have completed at least 2 years (360 hours) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth-grade level, which includes an SAE.
- Have earned and productively invested at least \$1000 and worked at least three hundred hours more than scheduled class time, in a supervised agricultural experience program. The combination of hours and earnings multiplied by a factor of 3.56 must be equal to or greater than the number 1,000.
- Demonstrated leadership ability by performing ten parliamentary law procedures, giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or FFA, and serving as an FFA officer, committee chairperson, or committee member.
- Have a satisfactory academic record, certified by the agriculture teacher and the school principal or superintendent.
- Participated in the planning and implementation of the chapter's Program of Activities.
- As of May 15, have completed ten activities above the chapter level in at least three of six different categories: leadership development events, career development events, conventions and meetings, project shows, student awards and leadership and service as described in policies adopted by the Board of Directors.
- Complete at least 25 hours of community service in a minimum of two different activities. All community service hours are cumulative, i.e., the ten community service hours used to obtain the chapter degree can be used toward the state degree.

American FFA Degree

This degree of active membership is awarded by the National FFA Organization and is the highest level of active membership which can be achieved within the FFA. This final step in the FFA Degree system encourages members to grow and achieve personally toward establishing yourself in an agricultural career. Members may apply for their American degree only if they have received the State FFA Degree, have graduated from high school at least twelve months prior to the national convention and meet the very high standards for the degree.

These requirements include an excellent record of involvement within the FFA, operation and maintenance of records to substantiate an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program through which a member has exhibited comprehensive planning, managerial and financial expertise, have earned and productively invested a specific amount of both time and money.

The American FFA Degree is a sign of great accomplishment among FFA members. Only a small percentage of FFA members ever earn the degree (the greatest percentage of members ever to receive the degree in one year was less than one half of one percent).

FFA members who qualify for the American FFA Degree:

- Have received a Greenhand FFA Degree, Chapter FFA Degree and State FFA Degree.
- Have been FFA members for at least three years.
- Have completed at least three years (540 hrs.) of high school agriculture classes, or 2 years of high school agriculture classes and one year of college agriculture classes (360 hrs.)
- Have graduated from high school one year prior to the
- National FFA Convention at which their degree will be awarded.
- Have maintained detailed SAE records, which demonstrate outstanding planning, managerial and financial skills.
- A student after entering agricultural education must earn at least \$10,000 and productively invested \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$2,000 and worked 2,250 unpaid hours in excess of scheduled class time; Any combination of hours, times a factor of 3.56 plus actual dollars earned and productively invested must be equal to or greater than \$10,000. Hours used for the purpose of producing earnings reported as productively invested income shall not be duplicated as hours of credit to meet the minimum requirements for the degree.
- Have a record of outstanding leadership skills. Have completed at least 50 hours of community service within at least three different community service activities. These hours are in addition to the paid or unpaid supervised agricultural experience hours.
- Have a record of outstanding leadership skills.
- Have a record of participating in community service activities. Updated Community Service Requirements: Have completed at least 50 hours of community service within at least three different community service activities. These hours are in addition to the paid or unpaid supervised agricultural experience hours.
- Have maintained a “C” grade average or better.

Stars Divisions

Star in Production: Outstanding achievement in an entrepreneurial production agriculture SAE and active participation in the FFA.

Star in Agri-Business: Outstanding achievement in an entrepreneurial agribusiness SAE that focus on agricultural sales, service, or other entrepreneurial endeavors along with active participation in the FFA (All horticultural enterprises fall under agribusiness even if they are production oriented).

Star in Agricultural Placement: Outstanding achievement in an employment SAE, these can include work-based learning, along with an active participation in the FFA.

Star in Agri-Science: Outstanding achievement in an SAE where the student's SAE programs are aimed at developing higher order scientific knowledge and skills along with active participation in the FFA.

Additional Information

Members wishing to apply for a star award above the chapter level, must apply for their Greenhand, Chapter, State or American degree using the corresponding application on Judging Card/AET. The Star Application must be attached (this is the original Star Battery). Those wishing to apply for the star award at the chapter level should check with the chapter advisor for details.

Star awards are given at the district, area, and state levels. Applicants must have been selected as a star winner from the previous level to advance to the next level. Check with your chapter's advisor regarding deadlines for application. Applicants advancing to the state level interview must submit one copy of the entire application to the state award and degree selection site.

All Texas FFA Star award finalists are recognized during convention on stage and presented with a state finalist plaque. The winner is announced at that time and is presented with a \$1,000 Dina Wallrath Robertson Memorial Star Award and an additional plaque.

All students who are applying for the Lone Star FFA Degree and star awards at all degree levels should use the American Degree application form. Applications should include the latest check sheets, which can be downloaded below. We recommend that you download these documents and compare them against the check sheets presented at your degree check. Have teachers replace them as needed.

Proficiency Overview

The Agricultural Proficiency Awards program encourages members to set personal goals and learn practical skills. The program provides recognition to FFA members at the local, state, and national levels for exceptional accomplishments and excellence in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program. There are fifty-one proficiency award areas that individuals can apply for, ranging from Agricultural Communications to Wildlife Production and Management.

Members may apply for proficiency awards while in or within one year after graduation from high school. At minimum, applicants must have kept one full calendar year's worth of records as an FFA member to apply for any proficiency award above the chapter level. Proficiency application must advance through district, area, and state level competition to reach national. Check with your local advisor to determine local application deadlines.

Proficiency awards will be judged by the following criteria:

- Skills and competencies learned that relate to an agricultural career field.
- Financial achievements, including growth in scope.
- Personal growth and development through FFA activities.
- Evidence of student accomplishments based on available resources and opportunities.
- Communication skills as demonstrated in the written portions of applications and clear, concise answers given during interviews. (Note: No personal interviews are conducted at the state level.)

Recognition

Chapter: Certificate and Medal received at chapter awards program. (Sponsor: National FFA Foundation)

District: Recognition varies. Generally, a certificate and/or plaque are presented at the District Banquet or Convention.

Area: Recognition varies. Generally, a certificate and/or plaque are presented at the Area Banquet or Convention.

State: \$1,000 scholarship and plaque presented at the Texas FFA Convention (Sponsor: Texas FFA Foundation)

National Finalist: \$250 cash award, National Finalist plaque presented at National FFA Convention (Sponsor: National FFA Foundation)

Local Scholarship Opportunities

- Local scholarship opportunities are available through the high school counseling office.
- The Pearland Livestock Show and Career Expo provides scholarship opportunities. Please read the PLSCE application rules for details. The application can be found on the district's CTE website.
- Students can also access their Naviance accounts or visit the counselors webpage to search for scholarships.

Texas FFA Scholarships

Overview

Thanks to the generosity of scholarship donors, the Texas FFA will award more than 140 scholarships to outstanding graduating seniors through its academic scholarship program. These scholarships are awarded based on academic and FFA achievements as well as the member's performance in an interview process.

PH 22.4 (a) (10) Candidates who receive a Terry Foundation Scholarship are NOT eligible to receive a Texas FFA Academic Scholarship.

The complete scholarship policy can be found [here](#).

*SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN ON JANUARY 13 AND CLOSE ON APRIL 19.

Texas FFA Scholarship Program – Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Texas FFA scholarship application deadline?

A. The deadline to submit application varies in each area. Potential applicants should consult their local agricultural science instructor to learn due dates for their respective area.

Q. Can I apply for a specific scholarship?

A. No. Applicants apply for a Texas FFA scholarship. Applicants are scored and ranked through a process of scholarship checks. Scholarships are allocated based on rank in the field of finalists and donor criteria.

Q. Are all applications considered?

A. Yes. All applicants who meet the minimum qualifications are considered. Applications are first evaluated and scored at the area level using the same scoring criteria applied in the state selection process. Each area is allowed a specified number of state qualifiers. If you application is a state qualifier, it goes into a pool of about three hundred applications at the state level. From this pool, about 140 state finalists are selected.

Q. If I graduate at midterm, can I still apply?

A. Yes. However, if you attend college in the spring, the scholarship cannot retroactively cover

expenses incurred during that semester. The scholarship will start the fall semester.

Q. If I am a state qualifier, am I guaranteed a scholarship?

A. No. About three hundred state qualifiers are forwarded to the state level by the areas. If you are selected as a state finalist, your odds of receiving a scholarship are very high, but this is not a guarantee. You must still meet donor criteria.

Q. If my parents file an IRS tax return extension, can I still file financial data in the FAFSA process?

A. Yes. FAFSA allows the use of financial documentation other than a tax return.

Q. Do I have to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to apply?

A. Yes. Each Texas FFA Scholarship applicant must complete the FAFSA during their senior year (application opens October 1 each year) and report the EFC within the scholarship application. You will also need to attach the FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR) to the application.

Q. How does the interview process work?

A. Candidates are scored, ranked, and placed into interview pools. An approved list of interview questions is available on the Texas FFA website. Candidates will provide a ninety second introduction and then randomly draw a pre-determined number of questions to answer for the committee.

Q. If I am not named as a finalist, is it still possible for me to receive a scholarship?

A. Yes, depending on where you finish in the application assessment rankings. If a finalist withdraws, the next candidate on the list will be moved into the interview pool. If a candidate does not meet donor criteria for the scholarship for which they qualify based on score, alternates will be moved into the pool.

Q. What if I cannot attend the state FFA convention?

A. Attending state convention is a condition for receiving a Texas FFA scholarship. If there are extenuating circumstances which prevent you from attending, these must be explained in writing to the State FFA Executive Director prior to the convention. All circumstances will be reviewed and verified, and a decision shall be rendered in writing. Exceptions to the attendance rule are extremely rare. Failing to attend is considered a breach of the scholarship agreement and is grounds for revoking a scholarship.

Q. Following scoring at the state level, are the application scores posted?

A. No. Only the applicants rank is posted. However, teachers may request their students' score. Texas FFA will also provide the teachers with scoring averages for the overall candidate pool

Texas FFA College Scholarship Eligibility and Requirements

Texas FFA Association Policy Handbook

Section 22.4: Candidate Eligibility and Application Requirements

1. To be eligible to apply for a Texas FFA College Scholarship, an applicant must:
 - a. be an active member of the Texas FFA Association for the current year and at least two of the three previous years, be listed on the State FFA Roster, and be in good standing with the Texas FFA Association.
 - b. be a U.S. citizen. If the applicant's transcript reflects a place of birth other than the United States, proof of naturalization must be shown to a high school record official (principal, counselor, registrar, etc.) or the agricultural science teacher, who will then verify it as part of the application.
 - c. declare intent to attend a Texas college or university in the fall semester of the application year.
 - d. be a current year graduating senior.
 - e. upon graduation, have completed at least three (3) academic calendar years and at least five (5) different semesters of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources instruction during grades 9 through 12. Course credits received through Credit by Examination shall not count towards satisfying the five (5) different semesters of instruction. All AFNR courses taken in one semester shall be counted as one semester of instruction.
 - f. score at least 1000 on the SAT or at least 19 on the ACT.
 - g. be in the top 50% of his/her class, based on scholastic rank, for the first three and one-half (3.5) years of high school for all scholarships, except the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and Wallrath Educational Foundation which require that the student be in the top 25% and Rodeo Austin, which requires that the student be in the top 15%.
 - h. be present in Official FFA Dress (according to Texas Standards) at all scholarship interviews (district, area, and state).
 - i. submit the most current Texas FFA Scholarship Application.
 - j. Not receive more than \$90,000 total from financial aid or any other scholarships if selected to receive any Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholarship and remain eligible to receive the HLSR Show scholarship. Applicants must list all financial aid and scholarships for which they have applied and the status of those awards as part of the application. If selected as a finalist for a HLSR scholarship, the applicant will be notified and must verify all other financial aid and scholarships received. Other financial aid or scholarships received will be verified by submission of award letters from individual donors and financial aid offices of the college/university the recipient will attend. Funds will not be disbursed without such verification.
 - k. Pursuant to HLSR policy, a student who has already received a \$20,000 HLSR scholarship from ANY HLSR scholarship program will not be eligible for the HLSR four-year scholarship through the Texas FFA scholarship selection process.
2. Candidates who receive a Terry Foundation Scholarship are NOT eligible to receive a Texas FFA Academic Scholarship.

3. Scholarship candidates who have advanced to the state scholarship selection process in the Texas FFA Scholarship program are not eligible to compete for the Ryan Mott Scholarship.
4. All scholarship recipients **MUST BE PRESENT** in Official FFA Dress (according to Texas Standards) at the State FFA Convention scholarship sponsors' dinner and the awards ceremony in order to receive an FFA scholarship. Any exceptions must be approved by the Texas FFA Association. Petitions for exceptions resulting from extenuating circumstances must be filed with the Texas FFA Executive Director no later than July 1. Texas FFA reserves the right to verify identity of interviewees and recipients
5. The Texas FFA College Scholarship Application must:
 - a. be completed and submitted through the student's online roster account
 - b. contain all requested signatures and uploaded documents
 - c. contain no supplemental pages that are not requested
 - d. be accompanied by the student's official transcript for the first three and one-half (3.5) years, which is signed by a school record official (principal, counselor, registrar, etc.) Applicant must provide official college entrance exam scores that are either attached to the official high school transcript or submitted via an official online report which displays the student's first and last name.

National FFA Scholarships

Overview

Through the National FFA Foundation, businesses and individuals support scholarships are awarded to students with a wide variety of higher education plans and career goals. Whether you are planning to attend a specialized training program or seeking a four-year degree, the National FFA Scholarship Program has opportunities for all.

Scholarships support FFA high school seniors and collegiate members as well as non-FFA members. Just one application is required for multiple scholarship opportunities totaling close to \$2 million.

The selection process considers the whole student - FFA involvement, work experience, Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), community service, leadership skills and academics

FFA Officers and Election Process

Chapter officers serve as a vital function in FFA. By taking a major leadership role, chapter officers grow from the experience and benefit the chapter. It should be the officers' goals to lead by example and encourage other members to participate in chapter activities.

The Officer Election Process and Expectations can be found in the Officer Election Packet that will be available in the Spring semester of the school year.

Parent Responsibilities and Expectations

Parent responsibilities: To help promote teamwork, good showmanship, and success, parental assistance of the FFA competition and livestock teams is important and valued. Parents are expected to comply with the following:

- Review competition and show team guidelines, show rules, and contents of the “PISD FFA Handbook” with your child.
- Ensure your child accurately completes and submits all registration paperwork and other required forms on time.
- Refrain from the use of tobacco, vapes, alcohol, profanity, and prohibited items at all FFA competitions and/or livestock events.
- Support the decisions and instructions given by FFA advisors, show judges, and other officials at all FFA sponsored events.
- Provide positive support for your child and treat others with courtesy and respect.
- Ensure that your child is on time for all required meetings.
- Ensure that your child complies with all PISD district policies.
- Provide transportation and accommodation for your child, and animal if necessary.
- Ensure child’s animal is validated and all validation rules have been followed. It is the responsibility of the parent to check for accuracy of the validation.
- Understand and comply with the rules and policies prescribed by all campuses, districts, show agencies and the “Pearland ISD FFA Student Handbook” and “Pearland ISD Ag Facility Handbook”. Stock shows and other FFA events are an extension of school grounds at any school sponsored event. Adults are not allowed to consume or have in their possession alcoholic beverages in or around the primary/general areas of the livestock show team, including animal pens.
- Understand and respect that parents/students may be asked to leave any PISD sponsored event for inappropriate misconduct, aggressive or disrespectful behavior towards advisors, other parents, students, or any behavior that brings discredit to Pearland ISD FFA.
- Problems/concerns that may arise will follow the Pearland ISD FFA chain of command:
 1. The problem/concern must first be communicated to the AST over the specific species.
 2. If the problem is not resolved at the first level, a meeting will be held with the lead AST.
 3. Any concern not resolved by the lead AST should be communicated to the appropriate campus/administrative office.
- Understand and respect that ASTs reserve the right to dismiss any student from a competition team or team based on eligibility, behavior, or improper care of animal.

Amendments

The CTE Director has the authority to change or amend the contents of this document without notice. This document will be maintained by the CTE department and reviewed annually.

Notes: