



Fort Bend County 4-H Ambassadors

Purpose:

The Fort Bend County Ambassadors aims to project a clear and accurate image of the Fort Bend County 4-H & Youth Development Program.

Objectives:

- To develop and understand the value of servant leadership
- Gain important communication skills in the areas of public speaking and team planning
- Learn how to promote a positive image of the 4-H program
- Recruit new members from diverse backgrounds

Goals:

- Demonstrate to key audiences what the 4-H Youth Development Program is and who it impacts, so that these audiences will understand the impact.
- To make families and youths more aware of 4-H and the benefits it offers
- To tell our 4-H Story to elected officials and stakeholders within Fort Bend County
- To be active leaders within Fort Bend County and assist at County, District, and State 4-H functions when & where assistance is needed

Membership:

Fort Bend County Ambassadors will be selected on an annual basis. A maximum of 20 youth will be selected to serve as Ambassadors. The number of Ambassadors is the decision of the supervising County Extension 4-H Agent and subject to change.

Members must apply annually with an application and formal interview.

*Starting in 2016, applications will be due in the spring and interview will take place during the summer to coincide with Star Award Interviews.

Requirements:

- Ambassadors will meet monthly from September-May
- Only one unexcused absence is allowed
- Excused absence reasons induce: illness, family deaths, & school related functions
 - Homework and studying will not constitute as an excused absence
- **Ambassadors are required to complete 20 hours of service outside of meetings in order to reapply**
 - Ambassador hours will be submitted online via the Fort Bend County Website under the Ambassador Tab

Eligibility Requirement:

Fort Bend County 4-H members must meet the following requirements to be considered for a Fort Bend County 4-H Ambassador position:

- Entering the 8th – 12th grades for the upcoming school year
- Must have been an active member of 4-H for a minimum of two years at the time application submission
- Complete a 4-H Recordbook, as a copy will be submitted along with an Ambassador Application
- Must remain academically eligible
- Adhere to the outlined Code of Conduct in Texas 4-H Rules and Guidelines

Code of Conduct:

Fort Bend County Ambassadors are an elite group of 4-H leaders who are expected to uphold a standard of excellence. All Ambassadors are required to comply with the Texas 4-H Program's Code of Conduct AT ALL TIMES when participating in any 4-H event. The Code of Conduct and Consequences of Misbehavior are included in the handbook and must be signed and submitted with the application. If a 4-H Ambassador violates any provision of the Code of Conduct, they will appear before a disciplinary board consisting of 4-H agents and the Fort Bend County Extension Director. This board will review all documentation and meet with the 4-H Ambassador to make a decision concerning the continuation of the youth as a 4-H Ambassador.

Dress Code:

Fort Bend County 4-H Ambassadors are required to dress appropriately for all events in which they are representing the 4-H program. All youth will be required to purchase an official Fort Bend County 4-H Ambassador Polo, to be worn with khaki dress pants and dress shoes/boots (NO FLIP FLOPS) and name badge.

*Fundraising options will be evaluated to help offset cost

Changes to the Fort Bend Ambassador Program

Changes may be made at any time to the guidelines, requirements or any other item related to the Fort Bend County 4-H Ambassador Program by the 4-H County Agent(s) if necessary.

Fort Bend 4-H Ambassador Application

Application Form

Applicant Full Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address _____

Parents Names _____ Phone _____

Number of years in 4-H _____ Name of your 4-H Club _____

Grade _____ Date of Birth _____
(As of August 31 of current 4-H year)

On a separate sheet of Paper

1. List all of your 4-H projects (show number of years in each and number of years as Junior, Teen or Project Leader). What did you do & learn?
2. List any Educational Presentations, Public Speaking, Share the Fun, Quiz Bowls or other Roundup Competition you have participated in with the corresponding year(s).
3. List 4-H Contests in which you represented Fort Bend 4-H at county, district or state level with the corresponding year(s). (Example: County Roundup, Big Time in D9 Judging contests, etc.)
4. List Exhibits & Contests you have participated in without elimination process with the corresponding year(s). (examples: Youth Show market swine, Youth Show breeding swine, etc. & educational exhibit example Ag'tivity Barn)
5. List any camps, Leadership Labs and Workshops you have attended; include any workshops you have led with the corresponding year(s).
6. List any Citizenship, Community Service & Public Relations (radio spots, presentations) Activities you have led, participated in, etc. with the corresponding year(s).
7. List all offices you've held and committee work with the corresponding year(s) (club, county, district, state)
8. Please write a short paragraph (200 words) on why you would like to be selected as a Fort Bend County Ambassador

Statement/Signatures:

I have personally read the Fort Bend County Ambassador Handbook and certify that this application accurately reflects my work. If selected to serve as a 4-H Ambassador, I fully understand my responsibilities and duties and will be willing to fulfill them. I will not only conduct myself appropriately at 4-H functions and events, but also in my personal life, school life and on social media. I understand the rules as laid out in the application and I understand that failure to follow these guidelines, 4-H rules or to act as an exemplary 4-Her for Fort Bend County will lead to my removal from the 4-H Ambassador Program.”

Furthermore, I also agree to abide by the 4-H CODE OF CONDUCT, listed in the Fort Bend County 4-H Ambassador Handbook and realize that if I commit an offense I may lose my privilege to serve as a Fort Bend County Ambassador

4-H Member's Signature: _____ Date: _____

As the Parent/Guardian of the 4-H Member, I have carefully read and understand the requirements.

I fully agree to support my child in his/her commitment to serve as a Fort Bend County 4-H Ambassador.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Texas 4-H Youth Development
2015-2016 Code of Conduct**



During my 4-H involvement...

1. I am expected to attend all sessions that are part of the planned program for all activities. I will inform staff if I am not feeling well or have a schedule conflict.
2. I will dress appropriately to the occasion and adhere to any attire requirements stipulated for the event I am attending. 4-H members should be courteous and clean, and possess good manners.
3. Language must be controlled and appropriate for a 4-H member — I will not use language that is socially offensive.
4. Except for planned tours and outings, I will not leave an activity facility any time without permission of the chaperone and/or staff responsible for the event.
5. I will not smoke or use tobacco products, or be in possession of such products, at any 4-H program event.
6. I will not be in possession of, use alcohol or drugs (except those directed by a doctor), or be associated with or remain in the presence of others when they are being used.
7. I will not be in possession of, use, or threaten another person with a weapon, bodily force or language.
8. I will respect the rights of privacy of those attending an activity and those with whom I may be rooming.
9. I will observe hours established by the staff and be in my room. No boys in girls' rooms, no girls in boys' rooms.
10. I will avoid unnecessary roughness to room furnishings, furniture, equipment, etc. Towels, ashtrays, etc., are not to be taken as souvenirs. Occupants of a room or conveyance are financially responsible for any damage or results of misconduct.
11. Any participant at an official 4-H activity who observes a breach of the code of conduct has the responsibility and obligation to report the misbehavior to appropriate chaperones.

Date

Member Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Texas 4-H Youth Development Consequences of Misbehavior

Violators May Expect:

To have the opportunity to explain actions to the professional Extension staff in charge.

Behavior that is disruptive to the event will be documented and a letter describing such will be sent to the District 4-H Leadership Team, County Extension Agent(s) and parents/guardians of those involved. Examples of offenses are as listed below, but not limited to:

Minor Offenses

1. *Habitually late to program activities*
2. *Not in room at designated time*
3. *Not possessing good manners or use threatening, obscene, or sexual harassing language toward others*
4. *Not respecting the rights and privacy of those rooming with or attending an activity*
5. *Lying or untruthfulness to chaperones, leaders, event organizers or others in attendance*

Intermediate Offenses

1. *Inappropriate visitation*
2. *Leaving a 4-H activity without the permission of staff member(s) in charge*
3. *Intentional damage to meeting site, sleeping quarters, person, or other person's property*
4. *Bullying*

Major Offenses

1. *Smoking or using tobacco products*
2. *The use of alcohol or drugs*
3. *Carrying an unauthorized weapon*
4. *Threatening another person with a weapon or causing bodily harm*
5. *Cheating*
6. *Sexual activities or harassment*
7. *Theft of any kind*
8. *Acting in a manner considered by 4-H leadership to be harmful or potentially harmful to the health or well-being of themselves or others, whether such act occurred within, or outside of the 4-H program.*
9. *Violation of the law*

Consequences

- For every offense 4-H member will receive a verbal reprimand.
- For every offense the violator shall write letters of apology to the appropriate people.

Major Offenses

- Automatic removal from event/activity and/or sending a participant home at the parent's/guardian's expense.
- One major offense during any 4-H year may lead to suspension of membership in all Texas 4-H Youth Development programs for the remainder of the 4-H year, along with the possibilities of facing criminal charges, pending offense. In addition, 4-H member may be asked to resign from all 4-H offices or leadership roles held or give up monetary awards or scholarships from the Texas 4-H program.

Intermediate Offenses

- One or two violations is grounds for removal from the event/activity and/or sending a participant home at the parent's/guardian's expense.
- Three violations during one calendar year is grounds for the 4-H member to not be allowed in any county, district or state activities for the remainder of the 4-H year. In addition, 4-H member may be asked to resign from all 4-H offices or leadership roles held or to give up monetary awards or scholarships from the Texas 4-H program.

Minor Offenses

- Consistent discipline problems requiring more than two reprimands is grounds for sending a 4-H member home at the parent's/guardian's expense.
- Habitual discipline problems requiring more than four reprimands during one calendar year is grounds for the 4-H member to not be allowed in any county, district or state activities for the remainder of the 4-H year. In addition 4-H member may be asked to resign from all 4-H offices or leadership roles held or to give up monetary awards or scholarships from the Texas 4-H program.

Course Of Action

Event managers responsible for 4-H events and activities are encouraged to communicate to 4-H participants and adult chaperones prior to the event a standard of acceptable behavior, via the Consequences of Misbehavior and Code of Conduct. Standards of behavior and consequences should be reviewed with participants as part of the initial orientation.

1. Event Manager obtains all the relevant facts.
2. Brief the on-site adult responsible for the youth delegate (Extension faculty member or 4-H volunteer).
3. If not on-site, but available via phone, brief the county Extension faculty member and District Extension Administrator responsible.
4. Review consequences of misbehavior. The following steps should be taken when sending a 4-H member home:
 - Extension faculty member contacts parents.
 - Parents advised that child is being sent home by safest, most direct means, and that parents are responsible for cost.
 - Event manager decides if parents should be given the option of picking up the child.
 - County Extension faculty member collects money from parent to pay transportation charges.
 - Follow-up correspondence from event's manager to appropriate county Extension faculty member, District 4-H Leadership Team, child and parent for documentation.
5. For all reprimands a Summary Letter and Accident/Incident Report Form will be completed and mailed to the 4-H member, parent, County Extension Agents, District Extension Administrator, County Extension Directors (if applicable), 4-H Specialist, and Texas 4-H Youth Program Director.

I have read the Texas 4-H Consequences of Misbehavior and understand what violators may expect. I agree with the Code of Conduct and do intend to abide by it throughout my 4-H activities.

4-H Member Signature

County

District

Date

As the parent or guardian of _____, I have read the commitment and do support all points. I give permission to the professional Extension faculty in charge to carry out the Code of Conduct as described including inspection of rooms.

Parent or Guardian

Date