



2022-2023 Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program

Application Instructions

Applications open April 1 – May 15, 2022 @ <https://fs4.formsite.com/state4h/water/index.html>

Visit www.texas4hwaterambassadors.com to learn more about the program.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Each year, up to (30) individuals are selected to join the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program. Those selected will participate in a summer 4-H2O Leadership Academy. Over the next (12) months, ambassadors provide a minimum of (40) hours of service.

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Tier I 4-H2O Youth Leadership Academy (June 12 – June 17, 2022)

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

Leadership, Mentorship, & Community Service

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

B. OBJECTIVES

- Experience the wide diversity of water resources, water uses, sensitive ecosystems, and water quality concerns throughout the state.
- Gain insight into water law, policy, and planning strategies to protect and preserve surface and groundwater resources.
- Learn strategies for improving municipal, agricultural, and industrial water conservation and efficiency.
- Understand the importance of water to local, regional, and state economies.
- Develop valuable leadership and communication skills while educating others.
- Learn about career opportunities in the water industry.

C. BENEFITS OF A WATER AMBASSADOR

- Serve a statewide 4-H leadership position and are accorded the respect appropriate to this role.
- Form friendships with others across the state who share your interest in water and natural resources.
- Become a subject matter expert among your peers. Educate others in your community and state on the importance of water to Texas.
- Explore career opportunities in the water industry and beyond.
- Gain deeper insight into the governance and management of water resources.
- Learn about scholarships and internship opportunities in the water industry.

D. SELECTION CRITERIA

- Demonstrate an interest in pursuing advanced knowledge of Texas water issues.
- Pledge to devote the time and effort to deliver water education in the community.
- Be willing to teach youth and adults about water issues.
- Be willing to work individually and as part of a team.
- Be mature, responsible, and use good judgement and appropriate behavior while serving as a water ambassador and representing the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program.
- Have dependable, regular access to the internet and email.
- Commit to participate in the summer 4-H2O Leadership Academy.

E. IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- Applications will be accepted through May 15, 2022.
- Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by May 20, 2022. Further instructions and tentative itinerary for the summer 4-H2O Leadership Academy will be provided at that time.
- Applicants must be a member of Texas 4-H and pay the \$250 participation fee in 4-HOnline by June 10, 2022.
- Academy dates are June 12 – June 17. Pickup in San Marcos, drop-off in Waco.

F. ELIGIBILITY

Applicant must be 14 years of age or older as of August 31, 2022, and be entering the 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grades in the 2022-2023 school year. Applicants do not have to be a current member of Texas 4-H but must agree to become a 4-H member (\$30 annual membership fee) if selected before participating in the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program.

G. TERM OF SERVICE

Ambassadorship is a 12-month commitment, beginning July 1, 2022. Ambassadors who meet the minimum (40) hours of service will be invited to serve another year. Twenty hours service must be completed by January 1, 2023.

H. APPLICATION PROCESS

The Texas 4-H2O Program Coordinator manages the selection process to ensure fairness.

- The selection committee is composed of representatives of the Texas water industry and Texas 4-H Youth Development staff.
- Applications must be submitted on-line at <https://fs4.formsite.com/state4h/water/index.html> by May 15, 2022.
- Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by May 20, 2022.

The online application requires (3) short essays and (2) letters of recommendation.

Short Essays (To expedite the online process answers may be typed in a separate program and copied and pasted into the form.) Essay questions are:

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

Letters of Reference (Two required)

Reference letters may originate from county extension agents, teachers, 4-H club leaders, and others who can attest to your scholarship and character. Letters should not be from family members. Applicants will be prompted to upload letters in the online application. Letters should highlight the applicant's leadership qualities, communication skills, and other personal attributes that would support the individual becoming an effective 4-H Water Ambassador. Only (2) letters of reference will be accepted.

I. PARTICIPATION FEE

If selected, the individual must pay the \$250 participation fee by June 10, 2022. Applicants do not have to be a current member of Texas 4-H but must agree to become a 4-H member if selected before participating in the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program (\$30 annual membership fee). Payment will be made on 4hOnline.

J. SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

A candidate whose disability prevents him or her from completing the application or essays in the usual method should contact the 4-H2O Program Coordinator for assistance.

K. EXPECTATIONS

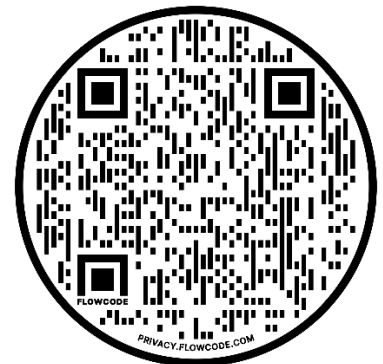
Membership in the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program requires a substantial amount of time and commitment. Ambassadors are expected to:

- Participate in the summer 2022 Tier I 4-H2O Leadership Academy June 12 – June 17, 2022.
- Complete monthly **required** continuing education assignments by the specified due dates.
- Participate in scheduled continuing education webinars (dates/times TBD) as available.
- Provide a minimum of (40) hours of service between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. Twenty hours service must be completed by January 1, 2023.
- Report education/service activities and maintain regular contact with the Texas 4-H Water Ambassador Program Coordinator.
- Communicate with your County Extension Agent and 4-H club leader(s) regarding your water ambassador activities.
- **Regularly attend and participate in local 4-H club meetings.**

L. CONTACT INFORMATION

Inquiries about the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program or the selection process should be directed to:

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Check out the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors website to learn more, www.texas4hwaterambassadors.com