

## **2018 HOUSTON FARM & RANCH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

Houston Farm & Ranch awards scholarships to students graduating from public or private high schools or have been home schooled in Harris County and have participated in the Harris County Fair.

Students who have received a Houston Farm & Ranch scholarship in the past and are presently attending a Texas College or university may also be eligible for a scholarship. See Addendum to the scholarship application.

Scholarships are awarded annually, as funds are available, or as directed by the Houston Farm & Ranch Executive Board.

The scholarship program is a significant part of the Houston Farm & Ranch goals of benefiting youth, supporting education and facilitating better agricultural practices through exhibitions and presentation. All recipients of HF&R scholarships must demonstrate academic potential, citizenship/leadership and financial need, and they must attend a Texas college or university.

### **ELGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

To be eligible to apply for, or to be awarded, a Houston Farm & Ranch scholarship, an applicant must meet the following requirements.

1. Be a citizen of the United States. If the applicant's transcript reflects a place of birth other than the United States, appropriate proof of citizenship must be furnished, i.e., a copy of the photo page of a valid U.S. passport, a copy of Naturalization Certificate or a birth certificate of U.S. Citizen Born Abroad. Applications submitted without proof of citizenship will not be considered. Students with permanent resident status are not eligible to apply.
2. Be a Texas resident.
3. Attend a public or private high school or have been home schooled in Harris County.
4. A copy of official documentation of SAT or ACT scores must be submitted with the application. This may be a copy of the form sent by SAT/ACT or a high school transcript listing scores.
5. Be scheduled to graduate from high school during the 2017-2018 school year.
6. Understand that all academic scores, rankings and college entrance test scores (SAT/ACT) will only be accepted up to the date of the application submission date. No updated test scores or academic scores or rankings will be accepted after the application due date.
7. Complete and pass all necessary standardized tests for high school graduation and admittance to the college and/or university declared in the scholarship application.
8. Must plan to attend an accredited college or university in the state of Texas the fall semester immediately following selection. Enrollment of a minimum of twelve (12) hours per semester is required. Scholarship recipients are not limited in their selection of a degree course.
9. Must have been a member for a minimum of two (2) years in a Harris County FFA or 4-H and participated in the Harris County Fair for two (2) years.
10. Applicants must list all financial aid, scholarships and grants for which they have applied and the status of those awards as part of the application. Failure to disclose completely all financial aid or other scholarships shall be considered grounds for forfeiture of the award.

## **GRADE POINT AVERAGES**

All grade point averages (GPA's) **MUST** be on a 100 point scale and be **UNWEIGHTED**, and every applicant must have a class ranking (even if the applicant is the only student in a class – the supervising instructor/principal must indicate this). 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 unweighted GPA on a 100 point scale may result in disqualification of the application.

## **FUNDS**

Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the college or university selected by the student upon enrollment and acceptance, but in no instance will funds be paid directly to the student. The funds will be forfeited and returned to the Houston Farm & Ranch scholarship fund if not used by the fall semester of 2018.

## **APPLICATION/DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Application must be complete in every category, and must be postmarked no later than **Monday, April 30, 2018**
2. Each application must be accompanied by an official high school transcript through the fall semester of 2017, official proof of SAT or ACT scores and test dates and citizenship documentation, if place of birth is other than the United States.
3. Applicant must include a typed narrative of no more than two 8-1/2" x 11" pages, double-spaced. Narrative should supply any information applicant feels is necessary for proper consideration of application, such as goals, financial need and plans for the future. Applicant's name, address and name of high school should be noted in the upper right corner of the first page of the narrative.
4. A written recommendation from a Harris County Agent, FFA Advisor or a 4-H Club Leader **AND** the applicant's High School Principal or Counselor, for a total of two recommendations, must accompany the application.
5. A recent photograph of applicant must accompany the application.
6. The Houston Farm & Ranch Scholarship Committee has 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 on, but not limited to, unfactual and incorrect information provided in the application or failure to meet any of the requirements.

## **EVALUATION OF APPLICANTS**

For the purposes of evaluation of applicants, the Scholarship Committee, selected by the Houston Farm & Ranch, will review all properly completed applications. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applicants are evaluated on the basis of academics, leadership/citizenship, FFA or 4-H participation, Harris County Fair participation, financial need and narrative written by the student.

Final approval and notification of each scholarship recipient will be made by the Houston Farm & Ranch Scholarship Committee no later than June 25, 2018.

All scholarship applications will become the property of the Houston Farm & Ranch.