**2024-2025 Matagorda County 4-H Ambassador Program Application**

**Requirements**

**Age requirement 14 and entering the 9th grade as of 8/31/24 to 12th grade**

**Record Books due Thursday,** **May 30, 2024**

**Applications due Thursday, May 30, 2024**

**Sign Ambassador Rules by Thursday, May 30, 2024**

**Interview Monday, June 10, 2024**

**Attend and participate in scheduled monthly meetings & Awards Banquet** **in July**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Age as of August 31, 2024\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**4-H Club: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Blazer Size: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**



*Answer the following questions. Additional paper may be used if needed.*

Why do you want to be an Ambassador?

How long have you been in 4-H? What 4-H projects have you participated in that you feel will give you lifelong skills?

What do you feel are the most positive assets you possess?

What are some unique, outstanding ideas you plan to use in order to promote 4-H if accepted to the program? (List a minimum of 3)

**Matagorda County 4-H Ambassadors By-Laws 2024-2025**

**1. PURPOSE -** To represent 4-H in public and private meetings portraying a 4-H model of excellence and challenge through leadership and public speaking so that the 4-H program might be more widely known and understood as an effective means of helping youth become productive and contributing citizens.

**2. GUIDELINES** – A self-governing body that functions under the advisement of the County Extension Agent(s) and the Adult Advisor(s), adhering to all directives of the Texas 4-H Ambassador Program Manual. Additional guidelines are noted in the county standing rules.

**3. MEMBERSHIP**

1. Age Requirements- Senior 4-H members, which are 14 as of August 31 to age 18, and in high school, 9th grade thru 12th grade.
2. Matagorda Count 4-H Ambassadors will include current Ambassadors plus each year’s new members. Membership will consist of no less than 4 members and not exceed 10 members each year.
3. Members remain Ambassadors as long as they are in Matagorda County and in good standing.
4. Any inappropriate behavior at any time will be subject to immediate review and/or dismissal by the Review Committee/
5. If an Ambassador forfeits his/her membership or is dismissed during his/her term, that membership will not be filled until the following New Year.
6. Graduating seniors and outgoing members must turn in their blazer and binder at the County Extension office on or before the Ambassador Program Application Due Date.

**4. ATTENDANCE**

1. Attendance is mandatory at all Ambassador meetings and activities. An Ambassador must contact a County Extension Agent prior to an event if he/she cannot attend.
2. After two (2) unexcused absences, the ambassador will be asked to meet with the Review Committee. The Review Committee will then make a ruling on the membership of the ambassador which could result in probation or dismissal from the Ambassador Program.

**5. RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. To work with the County Extension Agent(s), Advisor(s), and other Ambassadors as a team member. Responsibilities of Ambassadors are:
2. Attend required training sessions and team meetings.
3. Originate, plan and conduct community service project(s).
4. Serve as a Teen Leader to teach a 4-H project.
5. Be involved in planning and conducting programs or participate in a fundraiser as needed.
6. Represent Matagorda County 4-H at community events.
7. Required to sponsor a 4-H Club (other than the club which you hold membership) by attending a minimum of one club meeting of your sponsored club and provide leadership for that club. Ambassador must provide proof of attending meeting to the 4-H Extension Agent.
8. There is a point system to keep count of each activity the Matagorda County 4-H Ambassadors complete. Ambassadors will be required to meet a minimum of 90 points to remain as an ambassador the following year. The ambassador with the highest points will receive special recognition at the end of the year. The County Extension Agent will keep track of all points. If an ambassador participates in an activity where the County Extension Agent is not present, they must bring proof of participation, i.e. signed off by leader of event. If Ambassador does not have 40 points by December 31st, they will be brought before the Review Committee. The Review Committee will then make a ruling on the membership of the ambassador which could result in probation or dismissal from the Ambassador Program. If all requirements are not met by June 1st, the Ambassador will have to seek membership renewal by going through the interview process again.

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| **Ambassador Point System** |
| Activity | Points | Date Completed | Signature |
| Awards Banquet (Decorate, Banquet and Clean-up) | 5,5,5 |  |  |
| Ambassador Meetings (~10) | 10 |  |  |
| Fall Paper Clover | 5 |  |  |
| Spring Paper Clover | 5 |  |  |
| National 4-H Week | 5 |  |  |
| One Day 4-H | 5 |  |  |
| County Food Show/ChallengeParticipant | 2 |  |  |
| County Food Show – Set up/Work/Cleanup | 5 |  |  |
| Crossroads | 2 |  |  |
| Ag Days | 5 |  |  |
| Christmas Social | 5 |  |  |
| County Round-up Participant | 2 |  |  |
| SALE School Tours | 5 |  |  |
| Fair (Clean-up Booth and Promotion) | 5 |  |  |
| County Fashion Show Participant | 2 |  |  |
| Leadership Lab | 5 |  |  |
| MCFLA Livestock Judging Registration | 5 |  |  |
| Club Visits | 10 |  |  |
| District Events | 5 |  |  |
| County Council Meetings | 2 |  |  |

1. To refrain from all forms of Tobacco use at all times.
2. To refrain from use or possession of alcohol and drugs at all times (except when directed by a physician).
3. To refrain from conduct not becoming to that of the 4-H or Ambassador program. Conduct not becoming to that of a 4-H Ambassador will be reviewed on an individual basis.
4. If an Ambassador is caught participating in an illegal act (i.e. C & D) the Ambassador is automatically terminated from the Ambassador Program.
5. If caught in an act not becoming to that of the 4-H Ambassador Program, the Ambassador will automatically be put on probation for the 1st offense, (length of probation to be determined by other Ambassador’s at a regularly scheduled Ambassador meeting), and the Ambassador will automatically be terminated from the Ambassador Program for the 2nd offense.

 Probation is:

 a. Ambassador is still required to come to meetings.

 b. Ambassador is not allowed to participate in extracurricular activities.

 (i.e. awards banquet, educational trips, and any other ambassador function)

 c. Minimum probation is 3 months and maximum probation is 12 months.

1. If for any reason the Ambassador decides to quit Ambassador’s or is terminated, that individual is not allowed to reapply for the Ambassador Program.

**6.** **REVIEW COMMITTEEE** – The review committee will consist of the Matagorda County Extension Agents and the Ambassador President.

**7. APPLICATION** - Interested 4-H members will submit the 4-H Ambassador Program Application with a 4-H Record Book each year desiring to be considered. Submission of a complete 4-H Record Book is required. Current members are required to submit a 4-H Record Book at the time the 4-H Record Books are due, which gives them the option to remain as members or to decline for any reason.

**8. SELECTION**

1. Applicants will meet all criteria for Gold Star or Silver Star criteria.
2. Additional membership vacancies will be filled in the summer of each year by the interview process based on the applications and 4-H Record Books turned in each year.

**9. UNIFORM AND DRESS** - Ambassador uniforms will be worn at all official functions. The “Formal” and “Casual” dress code is given below:

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| **Formal Dress** |
| Girls | Boys |
| BlazerWhite Buttoned, collared, long sleeved blouseKnee length or long Khaki SkirtClosed-toed heel/shoesNude Panty HoseBrown Belt\*Badge | BlazerWhite Buttoned, collared, long sleeved shirtKhaki SlacksClosed-toed boots/shoesGold TieBrown Belt\*Badge |
| **Casual Dress** |
| Girls and Boys |
| Ambassador Shirt, Khaki Slacks\*\*, Closed-toed shoes, Brown Belt\* and Badge.\*if garment dictates\*\* on approval other types of approved dress will be acceptable |

**10. OFFICER ELECTIONS**  - Officer elections will be held during the first Ambassador Meeting in the summer.

1. Officer positions are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer and Parliamentarian.
2. Officers must be an ambassador for one year before becoming an officer.
3. Officers shall be elected annually and shall not be eligible for the same office for more than one term, consecutively.
4. President will automatically become the Parliamentarian for the new year, unless they are no longer an Ambassador, Parliamentarian will be voted on.

**11. AMENDMENTS** - Amendments to the 4-H Ambassadors' Standing Rules will be discussed as proposed at the April meeting and voted on at the following May meeting.

**12. DISSOLUTION** - In case of dissolution of the Matagorda County 4-H Ambassadors, the Adult Advisor(s) and County Extension Agent(s) shall, after settling all outstanding accounts, assign all funds to the Matagorda County 4-H Adult Leaders Association.

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I have read, understand, and agree to fulfill all of the Matagorda County 4-H Ambassador Program rules and responsibilities if selected as an ambassador.

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 Applicant Signature Parent/Guardian Signature

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 Date Date

**A Note to Parents**: We are pleased to have your child's application to become a 4-H Ambassador for the coming year. We want parents to understand that membership will require time, travel, and probably minor absence from school to make appearances that cannot be scheduled at another time. We pledge our efforts to keep family obligations at a reasonable level but want you to realize that the team must make major efforts at times in order to make a significant impact. We will be open to comments and suggestions from families. We are asking for your pledge to support both your child, should he/she be selected, and the Ambassador Program as a vital way to promote and improve 4-H in our county.

**Parent Statement:** We understand the above and will support our child and the 4-H Ambassador Program.

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 Date Parent/Guardian Signature