

Texas Rural Communities, Inc.  
Grant Application

**Program Summary:**

The Eagle Pass 4H Club is requesting an impact grant of \$24,500.00. This grant will support our youth in the development of their 4H projects.

Our programs help to build revolutionary opportunities and implement community-wide programs. The caring support of adult volunteers and mentors inspires young people in 4-H to work collaboratively, and take the lead on their own projects and set and achieve goals with confidence. Our program is uniquely equipped to deliver high-quality positive youth development and growth by hands-on learning activities in the Sciences, Citizenship, and Healthy Living. 4-H'ers stand up for themselves and their communities.

**Section I**

**A**

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**B**

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**Section II**

Eagle Pass 4H Club is a nonprofit organization for the purpose of providing service to many students in several educational and recreational project subjects. The objectives of this organization are to provide learning situations for the development of leadership, responsibility and effective citizenship. To provide educational and challenging experiences that will enable young people to become knowledgeable and skilled in their selected project areas. To provide information and training in other 4-H activities as members' interests dictate. To help each member experience personal growth and achievement, as well as be of service to others. Our students have to opportunity to compete with their projects at county, district and state levels.

**Section III**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**A**

The National 4H Program offers many Educational Projects that students can participate in. Many of the projects require training materials, and equipment that our kids don't have, therefor discourages them from pursuing their interest in that particular project. Adult Leaders are willing to train the kids, however, the equipment and educational materials are not available.

**B**

We plan to accomplish this by supporting the programs 4H has to offer our students. If granted this opportunity, we will be able to purchase the

necessary equipment, establish an equipment and resource library, computer lab, and conduct trainings for our volunteers and other collaborators, so that our program can strive to be the best. Through all of our projects students have the opportunity to compete at the County, District and State Level. This gives them a sense of ownership that encourages and motivates positive learning. Eagle Pass 4H Club volunteers strive to prepare students in the following Programs:

1. Our PHOTOGRAPHY Project encourages self-expression and allows students to demonstrate any skill learned in the designated area of study, also gives them the opportunity to learn the photographic equipment and the process of photographs.
2. Our CLOTHING & TEXTILES project allows students to demonstrate skills in developing ideas and sketching designs.
3. The 4H FASHION SHOW allows students to exhibit skills developed in their clothing projects, including application of knowledge of fibers and fabrics to wardrobe selection; clothing construction or comparison shopping; fashion interpretation and understanding of style; good grooming and poise; and modeling and presentation of themselves and their garments at the county, district and state levels. Our fashion show has two divisions: buying and Construction. Then we have four categories in each division which are casual, dressy, formal, and specialty.
4. RECORD KEEPING AND RECORD BOOK project helps students to set goals for project experiences, leadership, community service and awards. This project gives the kids a broad knowledge of their project and gives them an opportunity to spend quality time with the family. It also requires the student to do community service which in turn develops life skills essential for becoming an active, skilled, productive and responsible citizen. The student has to apply the latest practices and research findings to everyday living. This will help him develop leadership skills that promote positive youth development.
5. The FOOD & NUTRITION Project promotes a healthy life style. Encourage and teaches kids the importance of a healthy diet and exercise. Students learn to make healthy food choices, improve energy and alertness, reduce disease and illness risks, and gain knowledge of nutrients. Major learning experience is centered on nutrition, menu planning, food buying, preparation, food safety, careers and cultural influences.
6. Through our extensive ANIMAL SCIENCE project our kids have the opportunity to explore the exciting world of agriculture. This project is designed to engage the kids in the modern, high tech, and fascinating field of Agriculture. Through this project kids learn the responsibilities involved in raising an animal. This includes becoming experts in ethics, facilities, selection, nutrition, health, management, judging, veterinary science, animal anatomy, livestock judging, and showmanship. Kids get to opportunity to explore the very competitive world of county and major livestock show competitions.
7. The BEEF PROJECT teaches the fundamentals of the beef cattle industry by allowing youth to explore the areas of animal livestock selection, health, and care, in addition to the showing of beef cattle at local, county, state, and national cattle shows.
8. Through SHOOTING EVENTS project students learn lifelong valuable skills, good marksmanship, and the safe and responsible use of firearms, conservation ethics, and more. Our coaches work in conjunction with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Program.

9. The real world CONSUMER DECISION MAKING Judging Contest guides students in consumer basics as well as detailed description on specific products such as computers, digital cameras, jeans and many more.
10. With a TECHNOLOGY LAB, our members can research their projects. The photography contest requires them to upload and submit their pictures on line. Our county show requires they submit a printed picture. Most don't want to participate because they don't have access to a computer to upload and submit their entries on line, or a printer. The Texas 4H Youth Development Program has a requirement that any member wishing to join 4H must do so through their on line registration program "4H CONNECT". It is a challenge for volunteers to register members that don't have computers at home.

### C

We service any student regardless of their socioeconomic level, race, color, religion, disability or national origin. The kids that participant in our exciting program are kids that live in Eagle Pass, Maverick County, Texas. Our members come from 22 different schools in the Eagle Pass Independent School District. We live in a rural community in which about 98% of our students qualify for free lunch. Most of our kids come from families that have low / moderate income. Our program services children in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 12 grades between the ages 8 and 18. Our Club has an enrollment of 180 members. Our population consists of about 90% Hispanic.

### D

Yes, indeed our program will benefit from this impact grant. The characteristics of our program are unique in the sense that we work with students to help them achieve their highest potential. Once trained, they get to compete within their peers at a county level. Winners advance to District and State. All kids want to advance to State with their projects, so they work hard and strive for the best. The lack of equipment limits volunteers on the trainings. We will make sure that our program becomes a model for neighboring communities. Newspaper, Television and of course our District / State Adult Leader 4H Volunteer Yearly Conference would be our way to relay our program success sustained by Texas Rural Communities.

### E

Eagle Pass 4H Club will indeed accept an impact or recognition grant. If TRC is unable to meet our proposed budget grant, we would be delighted to accept your desired amount. Our requested amount is for \$24,500.00

1. For our Photography Project: Two (2) Cameras with flash & lenses and a Computer with Printer and accessories: \$4,000.00.
2. For our Clothing Textiles and Fashion Show Projects two (2) sewing machines: \$ 1,000.00.
3. For our Record Keeping and Record Book Projects, a Computer and Printer: \$1,500.00.
4. For our Food and Nutrition Project: Kitchen Small appliances, utensils, pots and pans: \$1,000.00.
5. For our Animal Science and Beef Projects:
  - One (1) Hydraulic Hoof Trimming Table with trailer, lights and fender and generator: \$7,000.00.
  - Two (2) Lamb and Goat Trimming Stands: \$600.00.
  - One (1) Aluminum Chute with wheels and head tie: \$850.00
  - One (1) Show Box: \$1,000.00
  - One (1) Air Blow Dryer: \$400.00

- One (1) stall Fan Cage: \$850.00
- Two (2) Sheep, Goat, and Hog Clippers with blades: \$800.00
- Combs, Halters, feeders, Pitch Forks, stall supplies, accessories \$ 500.00
- 6. For our Shooting Events targets for the Bow and arrows, a tent, and tables and a small show box: \$1,000.00
- 7. For our Technology Lab one (1) computer and printer \$ 2,000.00.
- 8. Training Fees, mileage and specialized project materials for projects, trainings and competitions for our volunteers: \$2,000.00

#### F

Our volunteers are always looking for ways to help our kids become amazing leaders. The expected outcome of our program will focus on meeting the needs of our current members and hopefully new members. The 4H result will be a fun fulfilling learning experience. Having the equipment in our facility will hopefully motive more kids to participate in these projects. If the outcome of our grant is positive, trimming and clipping will be able to be done in our barn. Our students won't have to travel 55 miles to the next town to borrow a hoof trimming table. The benefit of having our own equipment to work with will motivate the students to get more involved in our projects so that we can prepare our young people to meet the challenges of childhood, adolescence and adulthood, through educational opportunities and experiences that develops social, emotional, physical & intellectual skills.

Findings from the *4-H Study of Positive Youth Development* is the first-ever research project of its kind. The decade-long study, completed by a team of researchers at the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development at Tufts University, Medford, MA, is influencing research and practice around the world. The report shows that 4-H youth excel beyond their peers. 4-H'ers are about: Four times more likely to make contributions to their communities; Two times more likely to be civically active and to make healthier choices; to participate in Animal Science, Engineering and Computer Technology.

#### G

Once the funding is received, equipment will be ordered and within 2 months our members will be ready to start executing the use of our new equipment. Volunteer trainings are scheduled throughout the year; by September 2015 trainings should be complete.

#### H

Our organization has never received a grant from Texas Rural Communities.