2017
Opportunity Scholarship Guidelines

Important Dates to Remember

November 2016	Release of Online Application
February 6, 2017	Online scholarship application due
February 16, 2017	Supplemental documentation packet received by Educational Programs Office
May 2017	Recipient selection notification
May 2017	Awards Banquet

OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

In 2017, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ (the "Show") will award 114 four-year, $20,000 Opportunity Scholarships to outstanding students graduating from Houston-area public school districts in Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller Counties.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's educational programs are a significant part of the Show's goals of benefiting youth, supporting education, and facilitating better agricultural practices through exhibitions and presentation. All recipients of Show scholarships must demonstrate academic potential, citizenship/leadership and financial need, and they must attend a Texas college or university.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to apply for, or to be awarded, an Opportunity Scholarship, an applicant must:

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 for 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 high school in one of the Houston-area public school districts in Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller Counties

4. Be a graduating senior in the 2016-2017 school year.

5. Score at least a 900 on SAT or a 18 on ACT. A copy of official documentation of SAT/ACT scores must be submitted with the application. This may be a copy of the form sent by SAT/ACT, a print-out of scores, or a high school transcript listing scores. SAT score must be comprised of total points from the critical reading and mathematics sections of the test. Highest scores from each of these sections may be combined from different test dates to calculate total score. No updated test scores or academic scores or rankings will be accepted after the application due date.

6. Be ranked in the top half (1/2) of the graduating class, at the completion of the first semester of the senior year. This ranking is to be verified as a part of the official transcript or by an accompanying certification from an appropriate school official.

7. Have made formal application to enroll with intent to attend an accredited, not-for-profit Texas college or university (accredited by The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges) and participate in a curriculum leading to a bachelor's degree. Strictly online colleges and universities, even if they are not-for-profit, are not permitted.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Application Process:
    a. Part 1 – Consists of completing the online application prior to the given deadline
    b. Part 2 – Consists of mailing in supplemental forms that are **received by the Show by the given deadline** consisting of:
        - Application Summary Page completed by the applicant.
        - Individual Scholastic Record Form completed and signed by a school records official.
        - The applicant's official transcript for entire high school education to date (9th-12th grades).The transcript must be an original; no copies will be accepted.
        - Proof of either SAT or ACT score (Proof can be included on the transcript or from the student's SAT/ACT website account - student can print from the College Board. Please make sure the report has the applicant's name on it).
        - Copy of the applicant's FAFSA Student Aid Report.
        - Signed Certification and Authorization for Verification form.
        - Contain no supplemental pages that are not requested or required.

2. Opportunity Scholarship applications are only available online through the Show's website, www.rodeohouston.com, under the Scholarship Area. The Supplemental Documentation packet must be mailed or hand delivered, in one packet, to the Show's Office of Educational Programs. The forms for the supplemental documentation packet will be available to download once an application has been submitted.

3. Applicants are required to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and submit a copy of their Student Aid Report (SAR), which is obtained once the FAFSA is accepted. *Please note that it takes approximately one week after submitting the application for you to receive the report.*

4. A recipient of any Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholarship may not receive more than $90,000 in funding from financial aid, grants or any other scholarships for the four year term of an undergraduate degree. This does not include the Show Scholarship or loans. If selected to receive a Show scholarship, the applicant must provide verification of all other financial aid, grants or scholarships received. The scholarship award is not confirmed without such verification and failure to completely disclose all financial aid or other scholarships shall deem the applicant ineligible to receive the scholarship award.

5. Additional documents must be received through mail or delivered to the Show office no later than the deadline date of February 16, 2017. An application is not complete until the Office of Educational Programs has received the required documents. **Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted!**

Required documents may be **mailed** to:
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
Office of Educational Programs
P.O. Box 20070
Houston, Texas 77225-0070

Or **delivered** to:
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
Office of Educational Programs
NRG Center, 2nd floor
Three NRG Park
Houston, Texas 77054

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES AND IMPORTANT DATES

It is the sole responsibility of each applicant and their parent/guardian to be aware of all dates and deadlines.

The Show will not accept or consider any incomplete or late applications. No exceptions will be made.

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EVALUATION PROCEDURE

All completed applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a committee of judges selected by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Incomplete and non-qualifying applications will not be considered. Each application is scored based on academic achievement, high school leadership, activities, awards, community involvement and financial need.

NOTIFICATION OF RECIPIENTS

Final approval and notification of each scholarship recipient will be made by the Show's Office of Educational Programs in May of 2017.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Recipients will be expected to attend the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholarship Reception to be held in Houston in May 2017, for the presentation of the scholarship awards.

Applications will not be returned and become property of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo 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, nonfactual and incorrect information provided in the application or failure to meet any of the requirements.