



Jr. Volunteer Leadership Program Guidelines for 2025

EDUCATION YOUTH & PROMOTING AGRICULTURE

- All applicants must be a registered member and in good standing of a 4-H or FFA Chapter.
- Jr. Volunteers must reside in Hidalgo, Starr, Cameron or Willacy Counties.
- This year the **applications will be released by the RGVLS office on 9/4/24 and due back in the office no later than midnight on 9/18/24. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.**
- The applications will be judged on **Sunday 9/22/24**. The 2025 class notifications will be released by the RGVLS office.

Only 3 clover applications will be selected for the 2025 show. The parent and club manager may work with the child and complete the application on their behalf. The written evaluation committee will be looking for projects the child has completed or is planning on completing this year.

Only 3 collegiate candidates will be selected by the written evaluation committee. These individuals must demonstrate what leadership activities they participated in prior to the 2025 show. As a candidate they must demonstrate how they have remained active with a 4-H or FFA Chapter, a family or community agricultural business or how they support leadership activities with church and other projects on campus or in their hometowns. Only 2024 graduates will be considered for this project. No collegiate candidate that has won a belt buckle in the past may reapply for the program. If there is a collegiate candidate that is interested in continuing their RGVLS participation, we encourage them to register as a volunteer on the RGVLS web page for further considerations.

- This year there will be a **\$20 registration fee** per candidate charged and this will help to defray the costs associated with our awards, ribbons and uniform cleaning. Everything for participation in the project will be taken care of at the training meeting.
- All youth selected will be required to attend a **MANDATORY training class on Sunday 9/29/24**. It will be held at 2 PM in the RGVLS Event Center. If someone should miss the class or not be available on that day no make-up class will be held. The candidate must contact the committee on their withdrawal and the first alternate will be called up into that position. All paperwork certifications, payment of the registration fee, sizing of uniform shirts, and a review of the assignments will be covered at this meeting.

- **Leadership Oral Interviews and Awards Program:**

This year oral interviews for the leadership project will be conducted on the weekend prior to the show opening – **Saturday, March 1, 2025**. This activity is scheduled for the Youth Center and we will have 2 panels conducting interviews at the same time. Everyone is required to be in uniform for these interviews. Awards will be given out right after the judges scores have been tallied. The judging decisions are final.

Each age bracket from Clover to Collegiate will have a belt buckle awarded for the high point member and rosette ribbons will be awarded to the other top 2 positions. All Youth will receive a banner from RGVLS that recognizes they were a valuable service at the 2025 Show.

If a candidate won a belt buckle in the previous year(s) they may not compete for another belt buckle in that same age category until they move up to the next age bracket. They will not be required to compete in the oral interview process until they change age categories.

- Each candidate will receive an ID badge that must be worn while in uniform and on assignment. This is their gate pass onto the show grounds. These IDs become the property of the leadership candidates. The parent required to be with their child 13 years and under will also receive an ID badge and this will become their souvenir from the show. All parking and other gate pass needs of the candidates are to be handled through your club managers and school advisors.
- After the training meeting in September all communications will be with the parents only. We do not collect candidate phone numbers or email addresses.
- The leadership work assignments are as follows:

Mandatory Work Events:

Museum Work Plan – Work no less than 4 – 2-hour work shifts. The museum opens up on the first Saturday and closes on the last Saturday. The hours of operation are from 10 to 8 on these days and work shifts are 2 hours long.

Rodeo Assignments – Youth must work no less than 1 work shift (rodeo). There will be 5 rodeos to select from this year. These rodeos will be hosted on Tuesday through Saturday. Prior to the rodeos youth will assist with the scanning of tickets at the gate entrances, assisting guests in finding their seats and any other tasks requested of us by Edna Martinez Director of this portion of the rodeo. There will be 2 throws per rodeo and product for these rodeos will be brought to us by Christy Cameron, Marketing Director. She will have everything bundled for each show.

Jr. Horticulture Project – **this is not a mandatory assignment.** This new project will be held on the first Sunday of the show. It will begin at 10:00 AM and the leadership assignment will be to shadow the young exhibitors ages 5-6 and 7-year-old that have grown wildflowers and prepare a project book for the competition.

- The leadership work schedule will be released in late January 2025. At that time the parents will call in requesting their work plans. Be prepared to have a Plan A and a Plan B.
- The uniform shirts are the property of RGVLS. Youth/parents are responsible for ensuring that the buttons are secure, and the care of the uniform remains in good condition. These uniforms are turned in on or before the last Saturday of the show. Delinquent fees of \$25 will be charged if these shirts are not returned as required. Adults in this project may purchase a leadership shirt for themselves to wear from our vendor at his cost. This IS NOT a requirement. Our vendor will be with us at our orientation meeting if you are interested in ordering a shirt. He collects his fees at this time.
- All communications on this project will go to the parents. We will not be collecting youth email addresses and phone numbers.
- All decisions made by the written and oral judging panels are final.
- If there are any questions, please feel free to call anyone on the committee:
 - Adell Dufour - Chair 956-457-6310
 - Martin Arellano 956-203-5527
 - Mark DiLiscio 956-655-3675
 - Lorena Garza 956-279-4435
 - Allison McGurk 956-458-6424
 - Celina Perez 956-929-5973
 - Laura Guerra Ramirez 956-451-6931
 - Linette Ward 956-460-4979
 - Joel Ward 956-460-4989
 - Judy Guerra 956-357-5602