

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 26, 2019
TO: All East District 5 County Extension Agents
FROM: Jheri-Lynn McSwain, Ph.D.
District 5 Extension Specialist
RE: 2019 East District 5 4-H Gold Star Banquet

The District 5 4-H Gold Star Banquet is scheduled for October 1, 2019 at Stephen F. Austin State University Student Center, Grand Ballroom, Nacogdoches, Texas beginning at 6:30 p.m. Honorees should plan to arrive at the banquet by 5:45 p.m. and be dressed appropriately (dresses and coats/ties) for this special event.

Invitation Lists: From funds provided by the sponsor, meals can be furnished for the following:

District Office Contacts

Legislative Officials and Spouses
County Judges and Spouses
District 4-H Council Officers
Sponsors and Special Guests

County Contacts

4-H Gold Star Honorees for 2019
2 Parents of the Gold Star Honorees
(step parents, grandparents, siblings, etc. can come but must pay for the meal)

Additionally, you are encouraged to invite the following, but their tickets must be provided from your local funds and their names entered on the County Reservation List.

- Key leaders
- 4-H adult leaders
- Extension agent's spouses
- County Commissioners
- Anyone else you care to invite (including other friends or relatives of the Gold Star honoree)

Do not include on your list the special guests that will be formally invited by the District Office (that list will be sent to you soon for your review). However, if any of these invitees are located in your particular county, we would ask that you also contact them personally and encourage their attendance. Please assist them with travel arrangements as well when appropriate.

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RESERVATIONS for All Guests:

Reservations for all guests should be made via the reservation form. All Gold Star Banquet attendees should be listed on this list except for special guests who will RSVP directly to the District Office. The reservation form is due to the District Office by **August 26, 2019**.

RESERVATIONS for Paying Guests:

Each County should designate one individual to register all paying guests on 4-H Connect on or before **August 26, 2019**. The Connect system will open **August 10, 2019**. Please remember that payments should either be made with a credit card or 4-H check and be made payable to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. If mailing a check, please send to the 4-H Business Office with a notation of the County and for whom the payment is being made. The 4-H Connect registration system will ask the following five questions.

- County name
- Person completing the reservation
- Number of paying guests
- Names of the paying guests
- Special needs that we should know in order to accommodate guests

If a person who is submitted on your form as a complimentary guest does not attend, the meal fee of \$20.00 must be paid from your county or personal funds. The sponsor will not be expected to pay for a person who does not attend.

Again, please do not include anyone who is being formally invited by the District Office on your registration form. These special guests will reply directly to the district office by using the RSVP cards provided them especially for this purpose.

GOLD STAR FORMS AND PICTURES:

Please submit Gold Star honoree information and picture to the District Office by August 26, 2019. Pictures should be head and shoulders only. Since this is a most prestigious award and the pictures will be used in a banquet program, we request that honorees look the part in the picture. Looking the part means coat and tie for guys and a dress or blouse for ladies. T-shirts and hats are not appropriate for either male or female. Complete the Gold Star Honoree form using only the space provided. Do not add extra pages. The question on the form, Unique 4-H Experience, does not mean what projects the 4-Her is involved in, but something "unique" that has happened. Examples: dropped food before food show, livestock not acting good, competed in all contests, special honor, etc. It must be something related to 4-H.

ENCOURAGE APPROPRIATE ATTIRE:

Please work with all honorees so that they know the appropriate dress for this special occasion. Young men should wear sports coats/slacks or suits, and a tie. Ladies should wear nice dresses or pant/skirt suits for the banquet. ***This is an excellent time for educating youth in what is appropriate to wear. Styles for young ladies seem to be very short. Again, this can be a time for talking with your honorees about what is appropriate. Some have not dressed the part for the past several years!***

All County Extension Agents are expected to attend unless excused by the District Extension Administrator. Please notify Shelia Harris if you will be unable to attend this event.

cc: Mrs. Shelia Harris
Dr. Courtney Dodd