

Annual Report 2024

A YEAR IN
REVIEW



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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Department of Biological
and Agricultural Engineering

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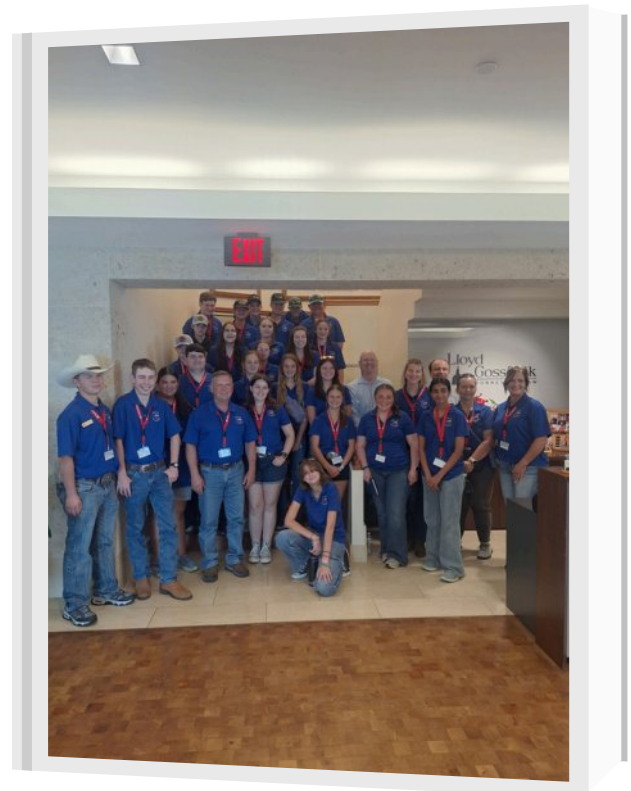


30 NEW AMBASSADORS

**SINCE 2017, 218 YOUTH
REPRESENTING 89 COUNTIES HAVE
PARTICIPATED IN THE TEXAS 4-H
WATER AMBASSADORS PROGRAM.**

New Tier I Ambassadors (County):

Creed Miller (Randall), Randal Coffman, (Gaines), Daniel Spradley (Nacogdoches), Anaya Ramamoorthy (Williamson), Jimmie Jones (Live Oak), Abigail Clifton (Rusk), Kaleigh Gilmore (Denton), Kyson Bunch (Yoakum), Meckenzie Cox (Sherman), Ashley Hardy (Kaufman), Jordyn Altman (Hall), Casey Small (Galveston), Sydney Small (Galveston), Allyana Echartea (Cameron), Jack Luckey (Milam), Zoe Halbert (Brazos), Sophie Anderson (Bell), Garrett Sanders (Lynn), Lucas Hill (Moore), Johan Grotegut (Deaf Smith), Ocean Landreneau (Brazoria), Christopher Clayton (Burnet), Joseph I. Howlett (Comal), Layla Howton (San Jacinto) Amelia Castillo (Bell), Madelynn Ferguson (Cameron), Mia Ramirez (Hidalgo), Lilly Haddox (Waller), Avery Sutton (Bell), Ella Hartzog (Hidalgo)



Top - Water ambassadors visit Spring Lake at the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment in San Marcos. Right - Water ambassadors learn about water law at Lloyd-Gosselink, Rochelle & Townsend in Austin.

CURRENT ROSTER AND COUNTY AFFILIATION

Tier I

Name	County	Classification	Name	County	Classification
Creed Miller	Randall	Sophomore	Zoe Halbert	Brazos	Freshman
Randal Coffman	Gaines	Sophomore	Sophie Anderson	Bell	Freshman
Daniel Spradley	Nacogdoches	Freshman	Garrett Sanders	Lynn	Junior
Ananya Ramamoorthy	Williamson	Freshman	Lucas Hill	Moore	Freshman
Jimmie Jones	Live Oak	Freshman	Johan Grotegut	Deaf Smith	Junior
Abigail Clifton	Rusk	Sophomore	Ocean Landreneau	Brazoria	Sophomore
Kayleigh Gilmore	Denton	Sophomore	Christopher Clayton	Burnet	Junior
Kyson Bunch	Yoakum	Freshman	Joseph I. Howlett	Comal	Freshman
Kenzie Cox	Sherman	Freshman	Layla Howton	San Jacinto	Junior
Ashley Hardy	Kaufman	Senior	Amelia Castillo	Bell	Senior
Jordyn Altman	Hall	Junior	Madelynn Ferguson	Cameron	Senior
Casey Small	Galveston	Freshman	Mia Ramirez	Hidalgo	Sophomore
Sydney Small	Galveston	Freshman	Lilly Haddox	Waller	Freshman
Ally Echartea	Cameron	Sophomore	Avery Sutton	Bell	Junior
Jack Luckey	Milam	Senior	Ella Hartzog	Hildago	Sophomore

Tier II

Anna Granadoz	Collingsworth	Junior	Ben Webber	Brazoria	Junior
Mack Alaniz	Jackson	Sophomore	Lynnea Johnson	Swisher	Sophomore
Tucker Landry	Hemphill	Senior	Lynlee Surlis	Frio	Sophomore
Brandis Beavers	Dallam	Junior	Sophia Arellano	Cameron	Junior
Ethan Spradley	Nacogdoches	Junior	Caleb Mannix	Coryell	Senior
Bryce Poling	Harris	Senior	Randa Jordan	Gaines	Sophomore
Riley Fitzpatrick	Uvalde	Sophomore	Wyatt Beauchamp	Parmer	Sophomore
Rory Die	Orange	Sophomore	Norah Pacheco	Ellis	Sophomore
Kaden Gordillo	Tarrant	Sophomore	Caroline Wood	Bell	Sophomore
Aidan Hill	Moore	Junior	Kadie Cox	Sherman	Junior
Pepper Johnson	Brazoria	Senior	Hannah Davis	Denton	Senior
Bubba Moreno	Walker	Junior			

Tier III

Tara Easterling	Moore	Junior	Victoria Canales	Bell	Junior
Megan Luna	Brewster	Senior	Jacy Lampe	Collingsworth	Junior
J.D. Haines	Montgomery	Junior	Sienna Molina	Cameron	Junior
Zane Ball	Johnson	Junior	Clay Workman	Leon	Junior
Justin Braune	Guadalupe	Senior	Mia Salazar	Hidalgo	Junior
Chase Jenke	Coryell	Senior	Olivia Clifton	Rusk	Senior
Texie Ralston	Hansford	Junior	Hunter Holder	Burnet	Junior

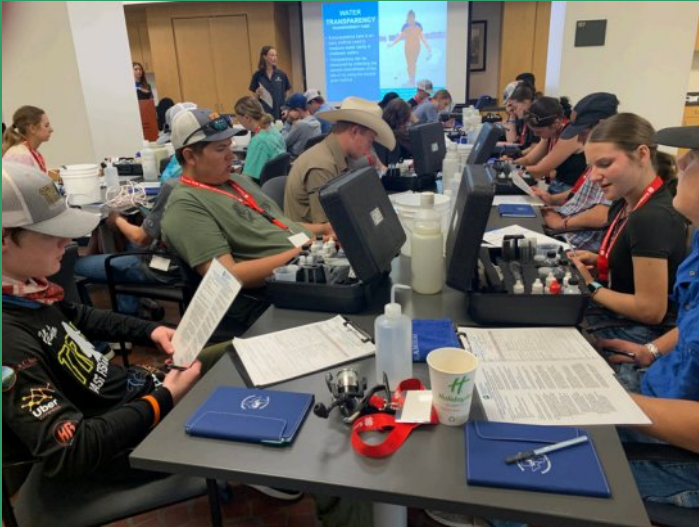
Tier IV

Hannah Lewis	Bell	Senior	Jane Gauntt	Bell	Senior
Madison Olivarez	Starr	Senior	C.W. Johnson	Swisher	Senior
Sophia O'Neill	Williamson	Senior	Roxy Islas	Taylor	Senior
Charlotee Sander	Hidalgo	Senior	Daniel Kernes	Wood	Senior

TIER 1 ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS:



Water ambassadors learn about groundwater wells and view downhole camera footage with Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District in Burnet.



Water ambassadors complete the Texas Stream Team Standard Core Training at the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment in San Marcos.



Water ambassadors learn about aquifers, hydrogeology and water conservation while visiting with Southern Ogallala Conservation and Outreach Program in Brownfield.



Water ambassadors build model aquifers and water wells with High Plains Water District at the Fibermax Museum in Lubbock.

The Tier I 4-H2O Leadership Academy focused primarily on groundwater management in the High Plains and Panhandle regions. The tour began in San Marcos at the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment and a visit with the San Marcos River Foundation. From there, we visited Lloyd-Gosselink, Rochelle and Townsend, Texas Water Development Board, the Southern Ogallala Conservation and Outreach Program, City of Brownfield, High Plains Water District, Samuel Jackson, Inc., Playa Lakes Outdoor Classroom, North Plains Groundwater Conservation District, and Mesquite Groundwater Conservation District. The academy concluded in Stephenville with visits to the Southwest Regional Dairy Center and Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District.

June 9-15
High Plains/ Panhandle

TIER 2 ACADEMY Highlights:



Water ambassadors learn about onsite wastewater treatment and tour the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Training Center in Bryan.



Water ambassadors tour Galveston Bay and look out for Dolphins while in Galveston.



Water ambassadors learn how to test for water quality and how to identify common bay fish species while visiting with Galveston Bay Foundation staff in Galveston.



Water ambassadors build oyster reefs with Galveston Bay Foundation.



Water ambassadors tour the Gulf Coast Water Authority Water Treatment Plant in Texas City.



Water ambassadors visit with the San Jacinto River Authority and tour Lake Conroe Dam in Conroe.

The Tier II 4-H2O Leadership Academy, for second-year water ambassadors, focused on water issues in east Texas and along the Texas Gulf Coast. During the tour, youth learned about water and wastewater treatment, hatcheries and fisheries, wetland restoration, aquatic plants, marine ecosystems, and bays and estuaries. Tour stops included the Texas On-site Wastewater Training Center, Texas A&M University Leach Teaching Garden, Texas A&M Aquaculture Research and Training Center, Texas Water Resources Institute, San Jacinto River Authority, Gulf Coast Water Authority, and Galveston Bay Foundation.

June 23-27
GULF COAST

Tier 3 Academy Highlights:



Water ambassadors learn about protecting springs and riparian zone restoration during a visit to Headwaters at the Comal in New Braunfels.



Water ambassadors tour the Genetic Research Lab at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Weslaco.



Water ambassadors learn about ongoing efforts to protect and rehabilitate sea turtles at Sea Turtle, Inc. in South Padre Island.

July 14-18

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY



Water ambassadors learn about the impact of flooding and geology while touring Canyon Lake Gorge in New Braunfels.



Water ambassadors take a Maine Ecology and Dolphin Watch Tour while visiting South Padre Island.

Third year water ambassadors toured south-central Texas and the Lower Rio Grande Valley where they met with many water industry organizations and professionals. These included the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Western Canyon Water Treatment Plant, Canyon Lake Gorge, Headwaters on the Comal, San Antonio River Authority, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension at Weslaco, Lower Rio Grande Valley Water District Managers Association, San Benito Wetlands, Marine Ecology and Dolphin Watch Tour and Sea Turtle, Inc. Students learned about irrigation districts, water quality, watershed protection, habitat restoration and agricultural irrigation methods in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

JULY 28- AUGUST 1 SOUTHWEST



Water ambassadors learn about flowing wells while visiting Boehmer Lake with Middle Pecos Groundwater Conservation District.



Water ambassadors learn about the evolution of water infrastructure and desalination while touring the H2Oaks Desalination Center in Elmendorf.



Water ambassadors spend an afternoon with Upper Guadalupe River Authority in Kerrville learning about watershed stewardship, their environmental lab, Wildlife Management Areas, surface water monitoring techniques and much more!

TIER 4 ACADEMY TRIP HIGHLIGHTS:

Fourth year and graduating water ambassadors participated in the Tier IV 4-H₂O Leadership Academy. The tour began with a visit to the San Antonio Water System H₂O Desalination Center in Elmendorf, followed by visits with the Upper Guadalupe River Authority, Sutton County Groundwater Conservation District and The Nature Conservancy at Dolan Falls on the Devils River, Middle Pecos Groundwater Conservation District, Comanche Springs, Balmorhea State Park, and the Caverns of Sonora. Topics covered desalination technologies, springs, karst aquifers, flowing wells and water quality monitoring.



Water ambassadors enjoy Dolan Falls on the Devils River with Sutton Co. GCD and Texas Nature Conservancy.



Water ambassadors tour Caverns of Sonora and learn about karst aquifer system.

LONE STAR 4-H SPLASH CAMP

The first-ever Lone Star 4-H Splash Camp was planned and conducted by 4-H Water Ambassadors for 6th - 8th grade students throughout the State. The event, held at the 4-H Conference Center at Lake Brownwood, featured a half-day water fair, macroinvertebrate collection and identification activity, kayaking, fishing and much more! The event was an opportunity for ambassadors to practice their communication and leadership skills and also promote the 4-H Water Ambassadors Program to younger students.

Water Fair

The water fair included fun, hands-on activities on topics such as:

- sprinkler systems
- aquifers
- community water systems
- fishing basics



APRIL 26-28
LAKE BROWNWOOD



Water ambassadors do the "How Wet is Our Planet?" activity during the Aquatic Wild Workshop.

Fall Retreat

The Fall Retreat is a time to renew friendships, hone leadership and communication skills, and learn new games and activities that can be used back at home. This fall, ambassadors completed the six-hour Texas Aquatic Wild Training led by Sara Jose - Texas Parks and Wildlife! Each ambassadors took home the Aquatic Wild K-12 Curriculum & Activity Guide and received a training certificate.

Ambassadors also were trained on proper exhibit booth etiquette and participated in the annual mock Town Hall where they were represented five different stakeholder groups and debated the proposed construction of a seawater desalination facility and clean hydrogen plant.



Water ambassadors learn practice the Conservation Messaging activity during the Aquatic Wild Workshop.



Water ambassadors learn proper exhibit booth etiquette and communication techniques.



Water ambassadors do the Mermaids & Manatees activity during the Aquatic Wild Workshop.

OCTOBER 27-29 LAKE BROWNWOOD

SENIOR REFLECTIONS

“The best part of the Texas 4-H Water Ambassador Program is the opportunity to make connections with like-minded people who care about water issues in Texas. Making these connections while still in high school gives the unique opportunity for students like me to obtain internships early and even careers involving water after higher education. In addition, the program also improved my leadership skills by giving me resources to educate others on water issues through hands-on projects and presentations. Being able to confidently speak on Texas water helps spread awareness of past, present, and future options, and even provide community-oriented solutions. While I was not able to spend the full four years in the program, I am extremely thankful for the time I was able to spend with friends and the new knowledge I gained through the program.” Jack Luckey (Milam Co.). Served one year.



“The Water Ambassador program was such a blessing to my highschool career, and a great asset for boosting my abilities. Through the program, I have accomplished more leadership skills, public speaking skills, presentation skills, and more knowledge in agriculture as a whole. Being a Water Ambassador has influenced my college and career choices and goals, and I will definitely be pursuing further knowledge and a degree in conservation. Along with the friendships formed, resources gathered, and people reached, I have expanded my personal knowledge and love for conservation in advocating for the care and respect of land and natural resources.” Megan Luna (Brewster Co.) Served three years.

“The best part of this program is the science involved, which fuels my passion for pursuing a career in engineering, specifically in agriculture/chemical engineering. This program has shifted my focus from architecture engineering to my true interest in agriculture/chemical engineering. I love and have grown up around water. (I learned to swim as an infant, and I was raised on the coastal plains of SE Texas. My grandfather is a global water expert, which sparked my interest in this program.) In my opinion, my generation's primary issue will be water security. I now realize the plethora of water-related careers. The teaching camps have given me valuable leadership experiences. My communication skills have improved significantly; I've gone from being terrified of speaking to confidently engaging with a small audience.” Pepper Johnson (Brazoria Co.) Served two years.



SENIOR REFLECTIONS



“Being a Texas 4H Water Ambassador has gave me the opportunity to explore the beloved state of Texas while making new friends and learning about the importance of water. My favorite part about this program is that it pushed me to improve my social skills to allow me to meet new people I can now call friends. I have learned the importance of water conservation and all the different ways Texas uses the resource. It is truly a blessing to be able to be a member of this program all four years of high school.” Daniel Kernes (Wood Co.) Served four years.

“The best part of the program was learning about the world’s most important natural resource—water. It deepened my understanding of water’s critical role in sustaining life and highlighted the challenges we face in managing and preserving it for future generations. I gained a greater appreciation for water conservation, access, and environmental sustainability. Beyond the knowledge, the program gave me the confidence to speak about these important topics clearly and effectively. I now feel comfortable discussing water issues with various audiences, whether casually or formally, and I’m more motivated to take action in my community.” Olivia Clifton (Rusk Co.) Served three years.



“I have loved my experience with the 4-H Water Ambassador Program. I plan to study Fishery Biology in college. This program with the opportunities it provides has helped me to be even more certain of my path after high school. Being a 4-H Water Ambassador has opened my eyes to water conservation and the importance it has on all living things. I feel very fortunate to have been able to learn from people who are top in their fields. I have enjoyed being able to share with others the knowledge I have gained through this program whether it is with PreK students or adults there is always something new I can share. In my opinion this is a very important program for people who are interested in all things water, fisheries and conservation. It literally helped me plan my future and I am so thankful for the opportunity.” Tucker Landry (Hemphill Co.) Served two years.

SENIOR REFLECTIONS

“This program has been an incredible experience, offering so many valuable opportunities, but my favorite part has been the friendships I’ve made along the way. Before joining, I didn’t fully understand or appreciate all the steps involved in managing and protecting water resources. Learning about the variety of jobs related to water has been truly fascinating. Through this program, I’ve gained a wealth of leadership skills, with public speaking standing out as one of the most important and valuable. Hosting the water camp last spring was a highlight for me—it gave me the chance to further develop my leadership and communication abilities. Additionally, this program has opened many doors for me, particularly in agriculture. I’ve been introduced to numerous careers that connect water and agriculture, sparking my interest in exploring these fields further. This experience has truly been eye-opening and inspiring!” Madison Olivarez (Starr Co.) Served four years.



“Due to the presentations and community awareness projects I have had to do for the Water Ambassador program, I have refined my presentation skills and have won several speaking contests. Although I have not selected the University that I will be attending, yet, as I am still waiting on offers and scholarship opportunities, I truly believe that the opportunities and experiences afforded to me in the Texas 4H Water Ambassador program have boosted my resume and has made me a competitive applicant for all of my college and scholarship applications. My experiences in this program have helped me grab a spot in the honors college at Texas State University, as well as Tarleton State University Honors Program. I have used the information I learned in this program to propose my capstone presentation topic for the Honors Program at Texas State. I will forever be grateful for this life changing program.” Sienna Molina (Cameron Co.) Served three years.

“The best part of the program for me was being able to educate younger kids about a Natural Resource that is so valuable. Seeing their faces light up because they heard something new and different and hearing questions they had was an amazing experience. The program provided me an opportunity to learn more about a Natural Resource which impacts so many other aspects of everyday life. The program provided me with a reason to do more presentations at schools and other local events. This meant I had to take on a leadership role to plan, coordinate and be able to educate the people I was speaking to for the presentation I was setting up. It helped with my communication skills as I had to learn how to put every scientific and important aspect of water into terms and words that an audience I was speaking to would understand. I also had to be able to communicate with other people effectively so I could do such presentations and have the help I needed there.” Caleb Mannix (Coryell Co.) Served three years.



EDUCATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program Education Grant is awarded to senior water ambassadors who have exhibited outstanding leadership, service, and personal growth through participation in program events and continuing education opportunities. This year, two \$2,500 educational grants were awarded. A subcommittee of 4-H Water Ambassadors Program Advisory Committee members made their selection based on the ambassador's response to four essay questions which focus on their experience, achievements, and contribution to the program.

**JUSTIN HILL - MOORE CO.
SERVED 2020-2024**



"This program has also given me ample opportunity to gain knowledge about and build connections with organizations within the water industry. One of the most notable connections that I have built has been with the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District. When I first started serving as an ambassador, they really weren't sure how to involve me in their programs and activities. After meeting with their General Manager and Head of Outreach several times to demonstrate my abilities and show them the kinds of activities that water ambassadors are capable of presenting, I was able to start working with them at their annual water festivals across the northern Texas panhandle.

I will be attending Texas A&M in the fall studying Agricultural Systems Management. I chose this degree path because of my exposure to the department through the Texas 4-H Water Ambassador Program. There are many different career options open to me through this degree program. Currently, I'm considering a career as a technical manager in the water industry."

**ISAIAH ATOE (TARRANT CO.)
SERVED 2020-2024**



"Being a 4-H Water Ambassador truly opened my eyes to the variety of opportunities before me and it allowed me to be a blessing to myself as it helped me pick my future career and college. When I first started as water ambassador, I was playing football, and I was hoping to go to college on a sports scholarship. After my second year of being a water ambassador, I learned about the Texas Brigades. I was able to use my water ambassador knowledge to gain the highest honor at a Brigades camp, the title 'Top Cadet'. I displayed my leadership and advanced water knowledge as well as knowledge of fishing and habitat management. I started fishing tournaments competitively, started winning, and became sponsored by many companies. I have met Fisheries Biologists and professional anglers that were very impressed by my water knowledge which allowed me to work with them and learn about fisheries and the fishing industry. I soon realized that fisheries science and fishing were in my future. Thankfully, that decision allowed me to now be attending University of Arkansas Pine Bluff to major in Fisheries Science."

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

RILEY CALK- TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY



“I JOINED THE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM IN 2018 AND IT ALLOWED ME TO EXPLORE MY INTERESTS IN CONSERVATION. I WAS ABLE TO WORK EXTENSIVELY WITH THE SOUTHERN OGALLALA CONSERVATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM, EDUCATING MY COMMUNITY ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVING AND MAINTAINING GROUNDWATER IN THE SOUTH PLAINS. I CONTINUED MY INVOLVEMENT WITH THE PROGRAM AS I STUDIED AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, WORKING AS A STUDENT TECHNICIAN. UPON GRADUATION, I STARTED MY CURRENT POSITION WITH THE FARM SERVICE AGENCY, WHERE I APPLY CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES THAT I LEARNED THROUGH THE WATER AMBASSADORS PROGRAM. I AM CURRENTLY CONTINUING MY EDUCATION, WORKING TOWARDS MY MASTER’S OF AGRIBUSINESS AT TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY. I WOULD NOT BE WHERE I AM TODAY WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE AND GUIDANCE GIVEN TO ME THROUGHOUT MY TIME WITH THE TEXAS 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS PROGRAM.” SERVED 2018-2020.

MALLORY BUNCH- WEST TEXAS UNIVERSITY

“I JOINED THE WATER AMBASSADORS AS A JUNIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL, WHICH WAS ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS I MADE DURING MY HIGH SCHOOL CAREER. DOING SO GAVE ME SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES THAT I WOULD HAVE NEVER HAD WITHOUT THE WATER AMBASSADOR PROGRAM. I HAVE RECEIVED MULTIPLE SCHOLARSHIPS BECAUSE OF THE EXPERIENCES AND KNOWLEDGE I RECEIVED AS A WATER AMBASSADOR. DURING MY TIME IN THE PROGRAM, I LEARNED MANY LIFE SKILLS SUCH AS PUBLIC SPEAKING, COMMUNICATION, TIME MANAGEMENT, PROFESSIONALISM, AND MANY OTHERS. I ALSO LEARNED THE IMPORTANCE OF NETWORKING, WHICH HAS HELPED ME TREMENDOUSLY AS I WORK THROUGH MY EDUCATION. BEFORE JOINING THE PROGRAM, I ALWAYS HAD A LOVE FOR AGRICULTURE, BUT THE WATER AMBASSADOR PROGRAM FURTHERED THAT EVEN MORE AND LED ME TO PURSUE A DEGREE IN AGRICULTURAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS. THE WATER AMBASSADOR PROGRAM HAS GUIDED ME DOWN THE PATH I AM ON TODAY, TO WHICH I COULD NOT BE MORE GRATEFUL FOR.” SERVED 2021-2023.



Former Ambassador Career Spotlight

John Philip Jones Completions Engineer - EOG Resources

"I am now working for EOG Resources as a completions engineer in Midland, TX, focusing on operations, including reused produced water transportation and chemical treatment. My involvement in the 4-H Water Ambassador Program was the inception of serious growth in my professionalism. I met with several water regulatory and planning committees to spread awareness for the program and our purpose. This motivated me to start thinking more seriously about my career and helped me make professional connections in high school. Because of these experiences, when I entered college, I had confidence in what I was looking for in a summer internship and could communicate well in professional settings. I owe a great deal to the Texas 4-H Water Ambassador Program for helping me grow into the young professional I am today." Served 2017-2020.



Myla Childers Environmental Consultant - UES

"Through the 4-H Water Ambassador Program, I found that a love for the environment can lead to a wide variety of careers doing something that matters. I am now an environmental consultant working towards becoming a Professional Geoscientist in the State of Texas. In my everyday work, I advance monitoring wells to sample groundwater and soil, complete large scale soil remediation projects, oversee long term air monitoring projects, and am even in the asbestos sampling world." Served 2018-2020.

Christian Hernandez Microbiologist - Ackuritlabs

"I was a member of the inaugural Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors in 2018. Before joining the ambassadors, I had been focused on plant taxonomy and human gut microbiology. Consequently, I studied molecular biology at Princeton University and received my bachelor's degree. Afterward, I joined a graduate program in biomedical science. However, I found I was not a fit for the program, as my love for water and soil science kept lingering in my mind. I reapplied to the master's program in the University of Florida's Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Science program, which I am now going into my second semester. In addition, I wanted to work in the private sector and gain some experience working in environmental testing and water science. That has led me to Ackuritlabs and Aqua Systems, where I work as the primary microbiologist for the company. Daily, I test residential, municipal, and commercial water sources for E.coli, Enterococcus, Fecal Coliform, and several other genera of microorganisms. I aim to work here and with the State of Florida's Department of Environmental Protection until I complete my degree. In the long term, I aim to start my own environmental consulting company, providing assessments for farmers, developers, and homeowners for managing water resources. Check out my website at restorationecoculture.com for more information. I also hope to assist the Malawi Agriculture Training Center in the small African country of Malawi with improving their water management." Served from 2017-2018.



WATER INDUSTRY CONFERENCES



- Texas Ground Water Association Annual Convention - San Marcos (Jan. 24-25)**
- 7th Biennial Texas Panhandle Water Conservation Symposium - Amarillo (Feb. 28)**
- Stewarding Our Water Future Conference - Amarillo (Mar. 21-22)**
- Ogallala Summit - Liberal, KS (Mar. 26-28)**
- 4-H Southern Region Biennial Conference - Lafayette, LA (April 9-10)**
- RURALWATERCON - San Antonio (May 26-28)**
- Agricultural Water Sustainability Summit - Lubbock (Aug. 7-8)**
- Texas Groundwater Summit - San Antonio (Aug. 20-22)**
- Bell County Water Symposium - Belton (Nov. 13)**



AMBASSADOR SERVICE

In 2024, Water Ambassadors reported **3,150** hours of education and service and reached **31,760** youth and adults with water education!



ALLY ERCHETA (CAMERON CO.) TAUGHT KIDS ABOUT POLLUTION'S EFFECT ON AQUATIC LIFE AT THE DIA DE LOS MUERTOS MARKET IN LA FERIA.



LILLY HADDOX (WALLER CO.) TAUGHT ABOUT STREAMFLOW AT THE WALLER CO. AG DAY IN HEMPSTEAD FOR COUNTY 4TH GRADERS.



KYSON BUNCH (YOAKUM CO.), MIRANDA JORDON (GAINES CO.) AND RANDAL COFFMAN (GAINES CO.) ASSISTED SOUTHERN OGALLALA CONSERVATION & OUTREACH WITH THE TERRY COUNTY AG CAREER EXPO.

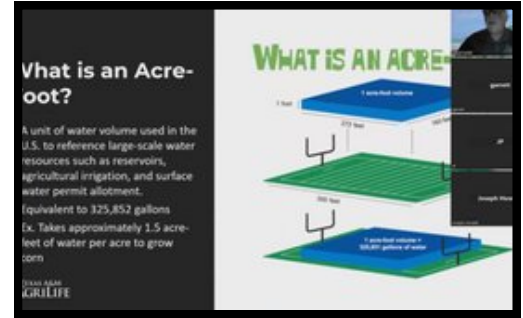


OCEAN LANDRENEAU (BRAZORIA CO.) HELPED AMY NOWLIN, MATAGORDA COASTAL AND MARINE EXTENSION AGENT RUN A CLEANUP ON PALACIOS BEACH.

CONTINUING EDUCATION VIRTUAL SEMINARS



WATER & WASTEWATER TREATMENT - DR. ANISH JANTRANIA



WADING INTO TEXAS WATER - DAVID SMITH

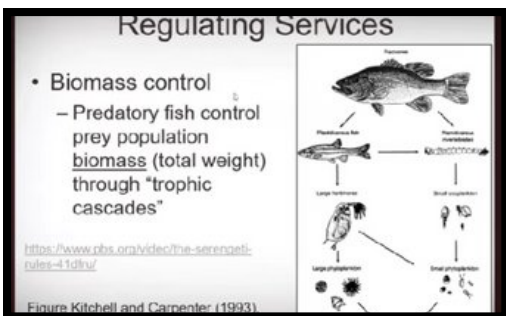


MUNICIPAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES - JESSICA WOODS, CITY OF ROUND ROCK

Monthly Zoom seminars provided continuing education on a range of water topics including water quality, college degree options, healthy riparian areas, industrial water treatment and water industry careers.



TEXAS NRCS WATERSHED PROGRAM AND THE ROLE OF FLOOD CONTROL DAMS - KAREN GREEN



AQUATIC WATER QUALITY INDICATORS & ENVIROMENTAL FLOWS - DR. JOSHUAH PERKIN



ANATOMY OF A WATER WELL - JOEL PIGG

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MET MAY 22 & DECEMBER 4

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

1. Adeline Fox—Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
2. Jay Bragg—Texas Farm Bureau
3. Jill Garcia—Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District
4. Michelle Wood-Ramirez—Tarrant Regional Water District
5. Whitney Ingram—Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District
6. Sinclair Newby—Johnson County Special Utility District
7. Julia Stanford—Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts
8. Megan Lamb—Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District
9. Michelle Cooper—Southern Ogallala Conservation & Outreach Program
10. Stephanie Keith—Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District
11. Dirk Aaron—Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District
12. Justin Saenz—Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District
13. Andie Saxon—Former 4-H Water Ambassador, Student Technician
14. Justin Hill—Former 4-H Water Ambassador, Student Technician

THE 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF WATER INDUSTRY, EXTENSION AND EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS.

MEMBERS MEET TWICE A YEAR TO REVIEW PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDE ADVICE TO ENHANCE VISIBILITY, BUILD SUPPORT AND EXPAND PROGRAM IMPACT.

PROGRAM SPONSORS

Industry sponsors are essential to the success of the program! This funding is used to cover costs for the summer leadership academies, spring and fall retreats, and educational resources for water ambassadors.

Visit our website for full list of current sponsors or to become a sponsor.

<https://www.texas4hwaterambassadors.com/sponsors>

IN 2024, 63 INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS CONTRIBUTED \$77,520 TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM!

The Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors program is funded through private sponsorships and in-kind support. Funds are used solely for the mission and objectives of the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program. Thanks to all sponsor organizations for their support!



Sponsorships are made to the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation—a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

2024 APPLICATIONS & DATES

MARCH 15, 2024

APPLICATIONS OPEN

MAY 1, 2024

APPLICATIONS CLOSE

MAY 10, 2024

**APPLICANTS NOTIFIED
OF ACCEPTANCE STATUS**

JUNE 1, 2024

\$300 PARTICIPATION FEE DUE

JUNE 8-14, 2024

TIER I 4-H2O LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

- Through an application process, up to (30) high school youth are selected from across Texas to serve as 4-H Water Ambassadors. Those chosen will participate in a Tier I 4-H2O Leadership Academy – a week-long tour of Texas aimed at exposing youth to a wide diversity of water issues.
- Following the Academy, youth commit to a minimum of (40) hours of water education and service in their communities. Those who complete their service commitment may continue as 4-H Water Ambassadors in successive years until they graduate high school.
- Year 2 (Tier II), year 3 (Tier III), and year 4 (Tier IV) 4-H Water Ambassadors participate in 4-H2O Leadership Academies which focus on a different region of Texas. They renew their annual education and service commitment throughout their remaining terms of service.

HOW TO APPLY



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

<https://www.texas4hwaterambassadors.com/application>



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