



TEXAS 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

**A YEAR IN REVIEW**

*Growing the next generation of  
Texas water leaders!*



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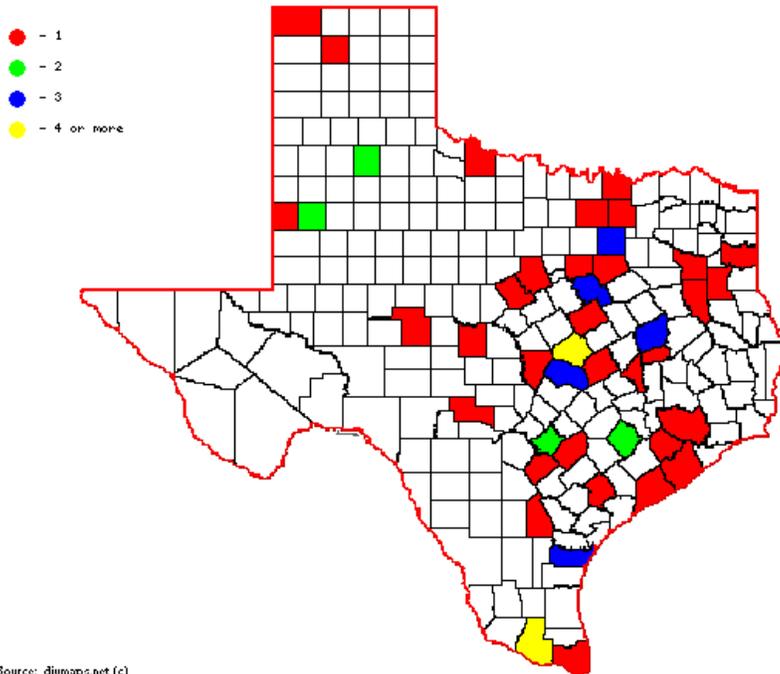
# (34) NEW WATER AMBASSADORS ADDED

Since its inception in 2017, (110) youth have served as 4-H Water Ambassadors. There are currently (66) active members representing (44) Texas counties. In 2020, (34) youth were selected for service.



**Tier I Ambassadors (County):** Isaiah Atoe (Tarrant), Savannah Bearden (Cherokee), Sadie Berry (Comanche), Emma Canales (Bell), Krishna Chandrasekhara (Dallas), Susan (Mimi) Clot de Broissia (Dallas), Jillian Ellis (Hill), Carlie Estes (Williamson), John Gauntt (Bell), Zachary Gray (Cameron), Alexandra Guerrero (Hidalgo), Summer Halbert (Brazos), Sarah Heimeyer (Brazoria), Justin Hill (Moore), Ivy Hiner (Harris), Dustin Ho (Dallas), Allison Hogue (Terry), Jalynn Justice (Fort Bend), Jasmina Karim (Bell), Jaraden Kearby (Tom Green), Mark (Ty) Kubecka (Matagorda), Ava Larson (Denton), Pierce Law (Guadalupe), Gabriela Ramirez (Hidalgo), Kellen Rushfeldt (McCulloch), Shelby Slavinski (Live Oak), Sierra Snowden (Floyd), Schafer Sprinkle (Grayson), Claudia Taylor (Dallam), Travis Thibodeaux (Gonzales), Grayson Thomas (Johnson), Kase Weishuhn (Colorado), Copeland Welch (Hill), and Kyle Workman (Leon).

2020/2021 4-H Water Ambassadors



- (34)** Tier I water ambassadors
- (20)** Tier II water ambassadors
- (12)** Tier III water ambassadors

*Map indicates the current counties represented and number of youth*

Source: diymaps.net (c)

# CURRENT ROSTER AND COUNTY AFFILIATION

## (18) Seniors

## (19) Juniors

### TIER I 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS

	First Name	Last Name	Gender	County	Class
1	Ava	Larson	Female	Denton	Freshman
2	Emma	Canales	Female	Bell	Freshman
3	Ivy	Hiner	Female	Harris	Freshman
4	Jasmina	Karim	Female	Bell	Freshman
5	Sadie	Berry	Female	Comanche	Freshman
6	Sierra	Snowden	Female	Floyd	Freshman
7	Savannah	Bearden	Female	Cherokee	Freshman
8	Alexandra	Guerrero	Female	Hidalgo	Freshman
9	Gabriela	Ramirez	Female	Hidalgo	Freshman
10	Jillian	Ellis	Female	Hill	Freshman
11	Kyle	Workman	Male	Leon	Freshman
12	Grayson	Thomas	Male	Johnson	Freshman
13	Isaiah	Atoe	Male	Tarrant	Freshman
14	John	Gauntt	Male	Bell	Freshman
15	Justin	Hill	Male	Moore	Freshman
16	Kase	Weishuhn	Male	Colorado	Freshman
17	Carlie	Estes	Female	Williamson	Sophomore
18	Shelby	Slavinski	Female	Live Oak	Sophomore
19	Sarah	Heimeyer	Female	Brazoria	Sophomore
20	Summer	Halbert	Female	Brazos	Sophomore
21	Mark (Ty)	Kubecka	Male	Matagorda	Sophomore
22	Pierce	Law	Male	Guadalupe	Sophomore
23	Copeland	Welch	Female	Hill	Junior
24	Jaraden	Kearby	Female	Tom Green	Junior
25	Kellen	Rushfeldt	Female	McCulloch	Junior
26	Susan (Mimi)	Clot de Broissia	Female	Dallas	Junior
27	Schafer	Sprinkle	Male	Grayson	Junior
28	Travis	Thibodeaux	Male	Gonzales	Junior
29	Zachary	Gray	Male	Cameron	Junior
30	Allison	Hogue	Female	Terry	Senior
31	Claudia	Taylor	Female	Dallam	Senior
32	Jalynn	Justice	Female	Fort Bend	Senior
33	Dustin	Ho	Male	Dallas	Senior
34	Krishna	Chandrasekhara	Male	Dallas	Senior

### TIER II 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS

	First Name	Last Name	Gender	County	Class
1	Vie Vie	Blanchard	Female	Collin	Sophomore
2	Madeline	Brown	Female	Wilbarger	Sophomore
3	Lily	Ford	Female	Hidalgo	Sophomore
4	Kylee	Jackson	Female	Terry	Sophomore
5	William (Joshua)	Jones	Male	Smith	Sophomore
6	Jahongir	Karim	Male	Bell	Sophomore
7	Javier "Andy"	Vela	Male	Nueces	Sophomore
8	Bailea	Reeves	Female	Rusk	Junior
9	Ava	Snelson	Female	Williamson	Junior
10	Anna	Vela	Female	Hidalgo	Junior
11	Sarah	Wood	Female	Bell	Junior
12	Matthew	Franklin	Male	Williamson	Junior
13	Jaxon	Grove	Male	Nueces	Junior
14	Trent	Morris	Male	Madison	Junior
15	William	Wright	Male	Victoria	Junior
16	Leigha	Adair	Female	Hill	Senior
17	Caitlyn	Goward	Female	Kerr	Senior
18	Kendal	Workman	Female	Leon	Senior
19	Seth	Jones	Male	McLennan	Senior
20	Cole	Reopelle	Male	Wilson	Senior

### TIER III 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS

	First Name	Last Name	Gender	County	Class
1	Tyann	Phillips	Female	Floyd	Junior
2	Sehrsha	Glover	Female	Erath	Junior
3	Rowdy	Kunz	Male	Colorado	Junior
4	Carson	Manning	Male	Guadalupe	Junior
5	Macy	Downs	Female	Yoakum	Senior
6	Reagan	Fox	Female	Nueces	Senior
7	Annika	Stevens	Female	Leon	Senior
8	Brayden	DeBorde	Male	Ellis	Senior
9	Hayden	Holder	Male	Burnet	Senior
10	Brentton	Jenkins	Male	Harrison	Senior
11	Gabriel	Ramthun	Male	Milam	Senior
12	Luke	Read	Male	Bell	Senior

## (13) Sophomores

## (16) Freshman

# UP TO (30) YOUTH TO BE ADDED IN 2021

# TIER I 4-H2O LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

**D**ue to COVID-19, travel and gathering restrictions postponed the usual 8-day tour of Texas. However, most of the new water ambassadors gathered in College Station for an orientation and training. Presentations focused on water resources, law, conservation and management. New ambassadors also participated in hands-on learning rotations led by experienced ambassadors who demonstrated educational activities that they can do in their communities.



**A** virtual academy was held July 15 for those who were unable to participate in the face-to-face academy.

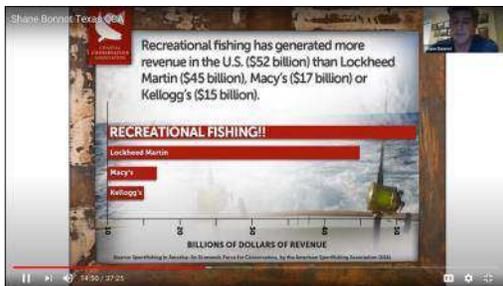
# TIER II 4-H2O LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



Christi Taylor (Texas AgriLife Extension Service - Texas Community Watershed Partners) presented on green infrastructure, wetland restoration, community planning, watershed coordination and ecosystem services.



Megan Imme, Mariah Waters and Cindy Wilems (Galveston Bay Foundation) presented information about bays, estuaries, freshwater inflows, and wetlands and showed several live fish, shrimp and crabs that depend upon a healthy estuary.



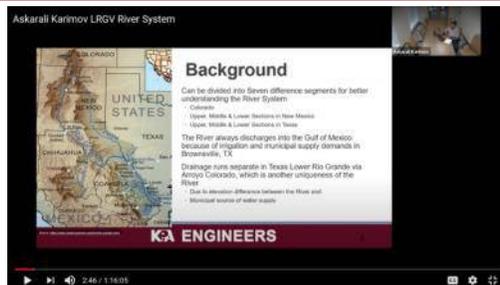
Shane Bonnot (Advocacy Director - Coastal Conservation Association - Texas) presented on the mission of CCA Texas and many of their efforts such as funding research to enhance knowledge of fisheries, raising funds to support marine science scholarships, funding internships in conjunction with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, assisting with artificial reefs, and monitoring the quality and quantity of freshwater inflows into the bays and estuaries.

This virtual academy (for second-year water ambassadors) focused on water issues along the Texas Gulf Coast. Guest speakers represented the Texas Community Watershed Partners, Galveston Bay Foundation and Coastal Conservation Association—Texas.

June 30

Third-year water ambassadors learned about water issues and concerns in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Speakers discussed international water treaties, water conveyance infrastructure, agricultural irrigation practices and technologies, irrigation districts, and practices for improving Arroyo Colorado water quality.

July 1



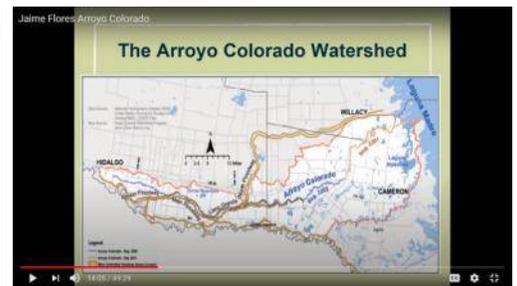
Dr. Askarali Karimov (Technical Director - Water Resources & Hydrologic Engineering with KPA Engineers in Temple) discussed the evolution of water laws and treaties between the US and Mexico, major tributaries to the Rio Grande River, and how water is allocated between the two countries.



Troy Allen (Lower Rio Grande Valley Water District Managers Association and Manager with Delta Lakes Irrigation District) discussed the water conveyance system and water rights regime in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, and discussed how water is pumped, conveyed and distributed.



Dr. Juan Enciso (Texas A&M AgriLife Research) gave an overview of agricultural irrigation methods and water conservation strategies in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. He also discussed using UAVs for detecting water stress.

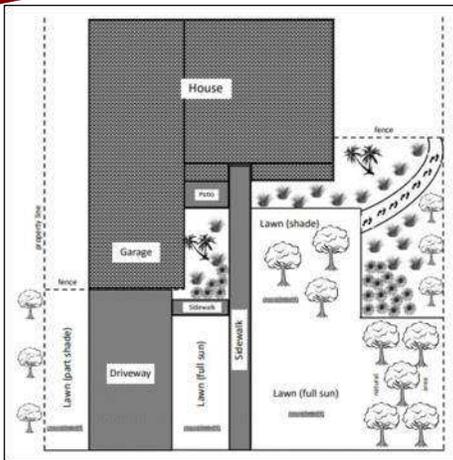


Jaime Flores (Program Coordinator and Watershed Coordinator for the Arroyo Colorado Project, Texas Water Resources Institute) presented about the Arroyo Colorado Watershed and discussed water pollution, watershed planning, and strategies for improving the water quality of the Arroyo Colorado.

# TIER III 4-H2O LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

# FALL RETREAT—TEXAS 4-H CONFERENCE CENTER

**E**ach year, 4-H Water Ambassadors gather in the fall for hands-on learning, leadership training and networking opportunities. This year's retreat focused on design, construction, operation and testing of a seven-station residential landscape irrigation system. Ambassadors learned about flow rate, static and dynamic pressure, sources of pressure loss within a pipe system, how to size pipe, different types of sprinkler heads and drip irrigation products and their applications, how to install and wire control valves, and how to install and program an irrigation controller. They also learned how to measure sprinkler application rate and distribution efficiency. This was a great project for teaching about landscape water conservation and efficiency!



**Landscape Design**



**Ground truthing and measurement**



**Installing the irrigation mainline**



**Installing lateral pipe for each station**



**Installing control valves and sprinklers**



**Installing drip irrigation tubing**



**Measuring system performance**

# AMBASSADOR SERVICE AND EDUCATION

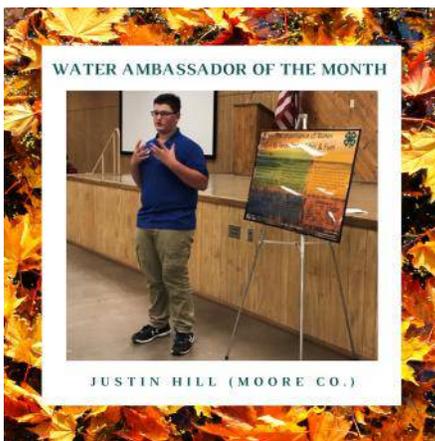
2020 was a challenging year for ambassadors as many education and service opportunities were cancelled due to COVID-19. Despite the hurdles, they did a terrific job of adapting such as utilizing virtual learning platforms and social media to educate others in their communities and beyond.



**2,400 hours of education/service**



**17,650 youth and adult reached**



**\$65,600—VALUE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

# CONTINUING EDUCATION VIRTUAL SEMINARS

**W**ater industry and education professionals delivered several seminars throughout the year for water ambassadors to help them stay engaged and learning about Texas water issues.



SEMINAR TITLE	PRESENTER
Watershed Protection and Planning	David Smith, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Virtual Tour of SAWS Clouse Water Recycling Center	Heather Ginsburg, San Antonio Water System
Tips for Creating Education Videos	Callie Henly Cline, Texas 4-H Youth Development
Municipal Water Conservation	David Smith, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Agricultural Water Conservation	David Smith, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Groundwater Management in Texas	Julia Stanford, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts
Hydroponics 101	Molly McKinney, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
High Plains Water District	Katherine Drury & Victoria Messer Whitehead, HPWD
Regional & State Water Planning	Sarah Backhouse, Texas Water Development Board
Aquaponics	Dr. Joe Masabni, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

**T**he 4-H Water Ambassadors Program Advisory Committee met May 12 and December 11 to review program activities, provide constructive feedback and offer suggestions to guide the ongoing success and sustainability.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Smith—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension	Adeline Fox—Texas Water Conservation Association
Jay Bragg—Texas Farm Bureau	Dianne Meadows—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Michelle Wood-Ramirez—Tarrant Regional Water District	Whitney Grantham—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Preston Sturdivant—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension	Roxanna Reyna—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Julia Stanford—Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts	Katherine Drury—High Plains Water District
Michelle Cooper—Southern Ogallala Conservation & Outreach Prog.	Megan Haas—Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District
Dirk Aaron—Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District	Stephanie Keith—Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation Dist.
Jennifer Thayer—Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District	Molly McKinney—Former 4-H Water Ambassador, Student Tech
	Riley Calk—Former 4-H Water Ambassador, Student Tech

# ADVISORY GROUP MET MAY 12 AND DECEMBER 11

# PROGRAM SPONSORS

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

**Thank You 2020 Sponsors!**

Like us on social media and keep up with our 4-H Water Ambassadors!



@TX4HWaterAmbassador



@4H2O\_Ambassador



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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.

# A LOOK AHEAD TO 2021

**T**hrough an application process, each spring up to (30) youth are selected from across Texas to serve as 4-H Water Ambassadors. Those chosen participate in a Tier I 4-H2O Leadership Academy – a multi-day 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 related education and service in their communities. Those who complete their service commitment may continue their role as 4-H Water Ambassador in successive years until they graduate high school and are no longer age-eligible to serve. 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, and continue their education commitment throughout their remaining terms of service.

## IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

- \* **April 1, 2021—Applications open**
- \* **May 15, 2021—Applications close**
- \* **June 1, 2021—Applicants notified of acceptance status**
- \* **July 1, 2021—\$250 participation fee due**
- \* **Tier I 4-H2O Leadership Academy (July—Dates TBD)**

## HOW TO APPLY

Check out the informational brochure and online application instructions at:

<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/water/> or visit

<http://www.texas4hwaterambassadors.com>