



**4-H B.L.A.S.T. Team** “Becoming Leaders...All Star Trainees.”

# Application Packet

2024-2025 4-H Program Year



**Deadline: 5:00pm, Friday, April 26, 2024**

It is your responsibility to check with the Tehama County 4-H office to be sure your letter of recommendation has been received before the deadline. If a letter is being submitted with the application packet, it must be in a sealed envelope. Letters may also be mailed or emailed to the UCCE Tehama County office.

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## 4-H B.L.A.S.T. Team “Becoming Leaders...All Star Trainees.”

### What is the purpose of the B.L.A.S.T. Team?

The purpose of “Becoming Leaders...All Star Trainees” is to empower youth members by fostering leadership skills, instilling self-confidence, and nurturing the ability to guide and inspire others effectively.

B.L.A.S.T. members will assist the County Ambassadors and serve as a role model for younger 4-H members. The activities/events that the B.L.A.S.T. Team selects to participate in, or plan/implement will focus on leadership development by fostering teamwork, enhance communication skills, promote decision-making abilities, and installing a sense of responsibility and initiative.

### Required Qualifications

1. Applicant must have completed at least one year of membership in 4-H prior to the year of application.
2. Applicant must have demonstrated leadership experience and skills. To ensure that the position of a B.L.A.S.T. member is open to 4-H members in all program delivery modes (community club, afterschool club, SPIN club, Camp, etc.) a member must document the following:
  - a. Mastery of a project as demonstrated by at least six (6) hours of instruction, documented by a statement of skills.
  - b. Ten (10) hours of significant leadership roles, either inside or outside of 4-H.
  - c. Ten (10) hours of citizenship and/or community service, either inside or outside of 4-H.
  - d. Four (4) Public speaking engagements, at least two (2) have been given at a 4-H event.
  - e. Demonstrate involvement in 4-H as evidence by a list of activities that are a combination of five (5) of the following: project skill activities, 4-H events attended, and honors and recognition.

*Alternatively, a member may submit documentation of having achieved a Bronze Star Rank to satisfy the above five requirements. Documentation can be the signed and dated Star Rank chart or other written documentation, that is signed by an adult volunteer other than the parent, that the Bronze Star Rank was achieved.*

### Application Process

- Informational Meeting and opportunity to ask questions **Friday, March 15, 2024, 5:30pm, Tehama UCCE 4-H Office.**
- Completed Application Packet must be submitted to the Tehama UCCE Office by **Friday, April 26, 2024, 5:00pm.**

### Selection Process

The Tehama County 4-H Review Committee will oversee the selection process which is outlined by the steps below:

- Application Review: Application packets received by the county deadline will be reviewed by the review committee to ensure that the applicant meets all minimum required qualifications.
- Individual Interview: Prepare a presentation on how you have developed in one of the 6 “C” through your 4-H experience.

## Application Requirements

Applicants will send the required application form, substantiating documents, and letters of recommendation to the Tehama County 4-H Office by the date printed on the front of this application packet. A complete application packet includes all of the following:

1. Application Cover Sheet
2. Essay Response (approx. 300 words) to the questions “What are your favorite 4-H experiences and why?”
3. Written Evidence of Leadership Experience and Skills.
4. One (1) Letter of Recommendation from a 4-H leader.
  - a. Recommendation may not be from a parent/guardian. Letters must be in a sealed envelope and submitted along with the complete application packet.

## Expectations of a B.L.A.S.T. member

Being chosen as a B.L.A.S.T. member is a working honor and in fulfilling it, members are expected to behave with a degree of maturity, composure, and excellence. The following are a set of expectations that are necessary for succeeding as a team.

- Follow the 4-H Code of Conduct always. Members sign this at the time of enrollment each year. It can also be referenced here: <http://4h.ucanr.edu/files/211114.pdf>
- Maintain a professional attitude as a representative of the 4-H Youth Development Program. Remember that both peer friendships and youth-adult partnerships are working, professional relationships.
- Follow the dress guidelines and dress appropriately for events attended or participated in as a B.L.A.S.T. member.
- Serve as a role model for younger members. Be mindful of this and aspire to set a good example always.
- Complete work on time. Whether it is an independent project or part of a group project members should always complete the work that is agreed upon. Members who are having trouble completing tasks on time, must let the adult coach so the coach and team can help. This should be learned as learning experience. Things happen, and everyone needs to learn how to ask for help.
- Attend and participate in B.L.A.S.T. meetings and activities.
- Attend a Tehama County Board of Supervisor Meeting (October).
- Attend a leadership conference or workshop.
- Identify a community need and plan and implement a community service project.
- Assist the County Ambassadors with Club officer installations and county events.

## Penalties for Not Fulfilling Responsibilities

Just as there are rewards for doing an outstanding job as a B.L.A.S.T. member, there can also be consequences for not fulfilling the responsibilities of the position. Penalties include the following:

1. Verbal or written warning
2. Loss of financial support to attend Leadership Conference and/or workshops.
3. Dismissal from the B.L.A.S.T. team.

The severity of the penalty will be determined on a case-by-case basis, by the B.L.A.S.T. Coache(s), with input from UCCE staff and/or academics. There is no set progression as it is possible to encounter scenarios in which dismissal is warranted without any warning. Examples include, but are not limited to outright defiance, refusal to perform assigned duties, bullying, etc. Please be aware of the requirements of the position and take steps to ensure that all expectations are met.

# B.L.A.S.T. Application Cover Sheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club/Unit/Program \_\_\_\_\_

Age on July 1st \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Years in 4-H \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Member Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Member Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Member Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_

Complete applications (including this form and the components listed above) are due to the Tehama UCCE Office by April 26, 2024, 5:00PM. Incomplete applications will not be considered for review.

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## B.L.A.S.T. Application Requirements

**1. Essays:** Answer the following prompts. Essays should approximately 300 words and may be typed or handwritten.

- What is your favorite 4-H experience and why?

**2. Written Evidence of Leadership Experience and Skills (all the first five OR achievement of a Bronze Star Rank):**

- Mastery of a project as demonstrated by at least six (6) hours of instruction. Provide a statement of what project skills you have mastered.
- Ten (10) hours of significant leadership roles, either inside or outside of 4-H
- Ten (10) hours of citizenship and/or community service, either inside or outside of 4-H
- Four (4) public speaking engagements, at least 2 of those must have been given at a 4-H event.
- Demonstrate involvement in 4-H as evidenced by a list of activities that are a combination of 15 of the following: project skill activities, 4-H events attended, and honors/recognition. Definitions for these three categories are found in the Record Book Manual under the section describing the Personal Development Report (PDR). Completing a PDR is not an application requirement for County Ambassador

**OR**

- Achievement of a Bronze Star Rank as evidenced by the signed and dated Star Rank chart or other documentation that verifies you have achieved this rank.

**3. One (1) Letters of Recommendation:**

- One letter from a 4-H leader
- Recommendations may not be from a parent/guardian.

**DUE Friday, April 26, 2024, by 5:00pm TO THE Tehama UCCE OFFICE**  
1754 walnut Street, Red Bluff, CA, 96080

**4. Presentation:** If you are selected to interview, you will need to prepare a presentation on one of the 6 Cs that you have developed through your 4-H experience. Presentation should be approximately 3-5 minutes long. The California 4-H Youth Development Program promotes the **6 Cs – Confidence, Competence, Connection, Charater, Careing, and Contribution** as the indicators of thriving.

## Letter of Recommendation Request

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ is applying to be a member of the Tehama County 4-H B.L.A.S.T. Team for the 2024-2025 program year.

Leadership experience and skills are required to be a county ambassador. Please share your knowledge of the applicant's leadership experience, skills, and character.

- Significant leadership roles, inside or outside of 4-H.
- Citizenship and/or Community Service, inside or outside of 4-H.
- Public speaking experience.

Letters are confidential and will not be shared with the applicant.

**Letters must be received by Friday, April 26, 2024, 5:00pm**

Letters may be mailed or delivered directly in sealed in an envelope or emailed to Erin Paradis, [ecparadis@ucanr.edu](mailto:ecparadis@ucanr.edu)

Tehama County UCCE 4-H Youth Development Program  
"B.L.A.S.T. Recommendation."  
1754 Walnut Street, Red Bluff, CA. 96080

*Erin Paradis*

4-H Community Education Specialist

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