

## **Program Overview**

The Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District is a Signature Sponsor of the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program.

The Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program provides high school age 4-H members and youth an opportunity to gain advanced knowledge and practice leadership skills related to the science, technology, engineering, and management of water in Texas.

Through an application process, (2) high school youth from each of the (16) Texas Regional Water Planning Areas are selected to participate in a summer 4-H2O Youth Leadership Academy and commit service hours annually in a variety of ways.

The Leadership Academy is a 10-day tour of Texas exposing youth to a wide diversity of water resources, water uses, sensitive ecosystems, water quality concerns, as well as the applied research and technologies employed to conserve this valued resource. Ambassadors will gain insight into water law, policy, planning, and management as they interact with representatives from state water agencies, educators, policy-makers, and water resource managers. Water Ambassadors will also gain an appreciation for the complexity of managing Texas surface and groundwater resources, its importance to local, regional, and state economies, and the responsibility we all have to protect this valuable resource for future generations.

Water Ambassadors will commit a minimum 40 hours of service over a 12-month period following the Academy. Service hours may include delivering water education at local 4-H clubs, schools, fairs, and community events. Ambassadors can also earn credit by assisting local water utilities, water conservation districts and Extension agents as they conduct water outreach activities and demonstration projects. Additional service credit will be awarded for Ambassadors who participate in periodic webbased continuing education opportunities and assignments administered by the 4-H2O Program Coordinator.