

The Longhorn Project at Johnson Space Center
Center for Agriculture, Science and Engineering (CASE)

**2018 – 2019 The Longhorn Project Show Team & Leadership Development Program
Introduction to the Program and Application Process**

fA. A Bit of Background

The Longhorn Project (LHP) at Johnson Space Center is an innovative educational partnership among The Longhorn Project, a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization, NASA’s Johnson Space Center (JSC), the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™, Clear Creek Independent School District, and the Texas Longhorn Breeders Association of America (TLBAA).

The LHP’s purposes are twofold:

- 1) To provide students with a unique educational experience that combines an agricultural and STEM curriculum with leadership and personal growth opportunities in a hands-on, working environment; and
- 2) To promote the preservation and legacy of the Texas registered Longhorn, the cattle native to the state of Texas.

The Longhorn Project, also known as the Center for Agriculture, Science and Engineering (CASE), began in 1996 and is located at NASA’s Johnson Space Center on a 53-acre tract of land that is comprised of a 35-acre pasture for grazing, an 11-acre feedlot, and 7-acre “Garden” area which consist of the garden plots, greenhouse, orchards, compost containers, aquaculture ponds and a paved patio with a waterfall and pond that is stocked with fish, and the Western Heritage Pavilion that was built and donated by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™.

Since 2004, The Longhorn Project has provided science lessons to thousands of students each year who participate in a “hands-on” genetics lesson utilizing the Texas registered longhorns for data and visual evaluation. In addition, students learn about animal husbandry, fruit and vegetable cultivation, pond management, aquaculture, soil research and recycling technologies, and how this knowledge relates to the future of human space flight.

Today, there are six trophy steers that have made Johnson Space Center their home (for the duration of their life) approximately twenty-five young longhorns (heifers, bulls, steers) that are on loan from members of the Texas Longhorn Breeders Association of America (TLBAA). The Longhorn Project Show Team exhibits the longhorns at TLBAA and TLBAA affiliate shows in Texas and Louisiana, including the Houston Livestock and Rodeo. An elite student show team cares for the longhorns. Through this unique program, the show team students augment their agricultural education and foster skills and values that will last them a lifetime. The show team will tour several ranches to be exposed to various styles of ranch management and longhorn herds and participate in the selection of the longhorns for the program. In addition to having the opportunity to earn scholarship money by showing the longhorns and participating in art, speech, judging and showmanship competitions, the mission of the show team is learning about the rich history of our Texas heritage as related to the longhorns and help promote the preservation and legacy of the cattle native to our state.

B. Overview of LHP Show Team and Leadership Development Program

The LHP Show Team & Leadership Development Program is designed for *sophomore through senior* level high school students who are interested in pursuing an education in agriculture, animal

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science or related fields. Through the LHP program, students will have the opportunity to participate actively in an environment that promotes learning and teamwork. The curriculum includes, but is not limited to:

- The history of the Texas longhorns;
- Basic genetics;
- Halter breaking;
- Feeding and nutrition;
- Care and grooming;
- Exhibiting at Longhorn Cattle Shows;
- Showmanship techniques;
- Educational and leadership development topics presented by guest speakers in the agriculture and business fields.

C. Longhorn Show Herd

Longhorn breeders, who are members of the Texas Longhorn Breeder Association of America, generously loan the longhorn cattle to the LHP. The breeders support the Show Team students by loaning their longhorns to the program for the duration of the show season and covering expenses (feed, veterinarian and medication expenses, hay, shavings, sand, and show entry fees) to support the longhorns.

The LHP Board of Directors, commits to ensuring each longhorn is cared for by the students and to providing an environment that promotes education, leadership, and teamwork under the supervision of the LHP Project Manager.

D. Longhorn Trophy Steer Herd

There are six registered Texas Longhorn Trophy Steers at The Longhorn Project that are on loan for the duration of their lives by members of the TLBAA. The trophy steers are maintained in the pasture and require minimum care; however, the Show Team students are responsible for assisting in the care for the trophy steers as needed.

E. Show Schedule and School Absences

Student will travel to approximately twelve (12) to thirteen (13) longhorn shows during the year, September – June, to compete as an exhibitor and in showmanship competitions, and/or in speech, art, judging, and or agriculture mechanic competitions. Students will miss approximately ten (10) days of school per school year.

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F. Travel Information

- Travel and hotel expenses, except for the lunch meal, to and from shows and field trips are covered by The Longhorn Project;
- Students and the longhorns will be transported to and from the shows, field trips and events by the Project Manager and assigned assistant;
- Parent/s will be required to complete and submit one Student Emergency Contact Information & Approval for Medical Treatment Form and revise it as needed.

G. Fundraising Participation

Each student is required to participate in one fundraising activity per semester to support the budget for travel expenses to shows and will be required to promote each event by raising at least three hundred dollars (\$300.00) through ticket sales and participating in the set up and cleanup of events, as needed. Each student is also required to sell three (3) engraved bricks (for \$125 each) at the Western Heritage Pavilion between July – November 2018.

H. Parent and Sibling Involvement

Care of the longhorns and barn duties are the primary responsibilities of the show team student. If the show team student is unable to care for the longhorns assigned to them and perform barn duties, the show team student must seek approval, in advance from the Project Manager, for their parent, sibling or fellow show team member to cover their duties.

A NASA JSC security badge is required for each parent and sibling age of sixteen (16) years of age and older. Siblings under the age of sixteen years of age may enter NASA JSC without a badge; however, the sibling (under sixteen years of age) must be escorted by the badged show team student, parent or sibling sixteen years or older. Students and siblings sixteen years of age and older that enrolled in high school, will be issued a six-month badge upon completion of the Badge Request Form which can be obtained from The Longhorn Project Manager. Parents and siblings, no longer enrolled in high school, will be issued a six-month badge upon completion of the required IdMAX security registration which includes a background check.

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I. Application and Selection Process

The LHP Show Team & Leadership Development Program is designed for *sophomore through senior* level high school students. Students must apply for the LHP Show Team. A panel of judges from The Longhorn Project Board of Directors selects the Show Team. The application process has three stages: 1) Attendance at an informational meeting, 2) Completion of the application, and 3) Participation in a show team try-out. The show team year is from July 1, 2018 – July 2, 2019.

1. **Informational Meeting:** Each applicant and a parent/guardian must attend the “Informational Meeting” scheduled for Thursday, April 26, 2018 from 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM at The Longhorn Project located at 2101 NASA Parkway, Houston, TX 77058.
 - Students and their parent/guardian need to arrive at NASA JSC Building 110, to the right of the Guard Station, between **4:30 PM – 4:50 PM** to pick-up their badges to gain access to NASA JSC. The Guard Station is located on 2nd St., off Saturn Lane, accessible from NASA Parkway or Bay Area Blvd. **You and your parent/guardian must present a valid driver’s license (or school picture ID if the applicant does not have a license) to the badging office for NASA JSC to issue a badge for entrance.** A Longhorn Project Board Member will be at Building 110 to greet and direct you to the LHP.
 - **Prior to the Informational Meeting**, you will need to send your name and the name/s of your parent/guardian, as the name appears on your and your parent’s/guardian’s Texas Driver’s License to awilson2121@comcast.net by 10:00AM on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. If you do not have a driver’s license, send your name as it appears on your student ID. If student or parent/guardian has a driver’s license issued by another state, please list the state.
2. **Application Form:** A completed application with supporting documents (below) should be emailed to awilson2121@comast.net or mailed to The Longhorn Project, 957 NASA Parkway, #129, Houston, TX 77058.
 1. Verification of 4-H Club or FFA membership in good standing;
 2. Unofficial High School Transcript;
 3. Signed Agreement by the student applicant and a parent/guardian, indicating acceptance of the rules and regulations set-forth in the “The Longhorn Project Show Team & Leadership Development Program Agreement (Agreement);”
 4. Two letters of recommendations completed by an academic teacher, principal or counselor and emailed to awilson2121@comcast.net or mailed to The Longhorn Project 957 NASA Parkway, #129 Houston, TX 77058.

APPLICATION MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MAY 3, 2018.

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ON MAY 7, 2018.

TRYOUTS ARE ON THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2018.

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3. Try-Out Information:

- **Date:** Thursday, May 10, 2018 from 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM; 20 min. per applicant
- **Place:** The Longhorn Project is located at NASA JSC 2101 NASA Parkway, Houston, TX 77058
- **Badge Required:** Applicants must pick-up a badge in Building 110 for access. **Please note: Building 110 closes at 5:30PM.** All applicants must be at The Longhorn Project by 5:30 PM.
- **Remember** to bring your Texas Driver's License or your Student ID (if you do not have a driver's license) so you can get your badge.
- Applicants will be notified of the results on Friday, April 27, 2018 by 7:30 PM.
- Each applicant should be prepared to give a **three-minute presentation or speech** on one of the topics below or a related topic of your choice and be prepared to orally answer the questions about his or her application. A specific try-out time will be assigned to each applicant in advance.

Topics:

- History of the Longhorns
- Characteristics of the Longhorns
- Showmanship Techniques
- Texas Longhorn Breeders of Tomorrow
- Texas Longhorn Breeders of Tomorrow (TLBT) Hall of Fame Points
- Texas Longhorn Breeders of Tomorrow (TLBT) Handbook
- The Longhorn Project at Johnson Space Center

Resources:

Web sites: www.tlbaa.org and/or <http://www.tlbaa.org/tlbaa-events/tlbt/thelonghornproject.com>

Summary of Dates:

April 24, 2018 – Tuesday by 10:00 AM

Send your name and the name/s of your parent/guardian as the name appears on your and your parent's/guardian's Texas Driver's License to awilson2121@comcast.net

April 26, 2018 – Thursday; 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Informational Meeting at The Longhorn Project (see instructions and directions above)

Arrive between 4:30 PM – 4:50 PM to pick-up your badges

May 3, 2018– Thursday

If not submitted via email, application or letters of reference must be postmarked by March 3, 2018.

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May 7, 2018 – Monday

Application Due

May 10, 2018 –Thursday; Tryouts; 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Tryouts – A 20 min. tryout time will be assigned to each applicant.

Site-access badges must be picked up by 5:15 PM.

All applicants must be at The Longhorn Project by 5:30 PM.

May 11, 2018 – Friday by 7:30 PM

Notification of tryout results

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APPLICATION MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MAY 3, 2018.

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ON MAY 7, 2018.

Mail to: The Longhorn Project 957 NASA Parkway, #129 Houston, TX 77058 OR

Email to: awilson2121@comcast.net

Must be a sophomore, junior or senior level high school student to apply.

I. **Complete Form** - Please type and print.

Date:

Applicant First/Last Name:

Address/City/State/Zip:

Email:

Primary Phone

Date of Birth:

Grade (as of 09/01/2018):

(2018-19) School:

School District:

Name of at least 1 parent/guardian:

Mother's Name:

Email:

Primary Phone:

Father's Name:

Email:

Primary Phone:

Address (If different from above)

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II. **Please answer questions below in complete sentences.** *If you need additional space, feel free to attach another sheet of paper.*

1. Participating on the Show Team requires a significant time and work commitment. In addition, you will need to adhere to “The Longhorn Project Show Team & Leadership Development Program Agreement.” Please explain how you will manage your time to ensure that you maintain your grades at a level that allows for extracurricular participation. Include all other commitments.

2. Caring for large animals requires patience and determination. What experience do you have in caring for or working with cattle or another livestock? If you don't have any experience, what do you hope to learn from participating on the Show Team?

3. The Longhorn Project promotes learning, leadership, and personal responsibility. Given those goals, why have you applied to The Longhorn Project Show Team?

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III. Additional Requirements:

1. Enclose your unofficial high school transcript.
2. Enclose a signed Agreement (The Longhorn Project Student Show Team Agreement).
3. Please have two letters of recommendations completed by an academic teacher, principal or counselor and emailed to awilson2121@comcast.net or mailed to:
The Longhorn Project 957 NASA Parkway, #129 Houston, TX 77058

LETTERS MUST BE EMAILED or POSTMARKED BY MAY 3, 2018.

4. Prepare a 3-minute presentation or speech and be prepared to orally answer the questions about his or her application.

Student:

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Signed Name: _____

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2017-2018 The Longhorn Project Student Show Team Agreement

Student Name: _____

Members of the Longhorn Project's Show Team represent themselves, their families, their school, and the Longhorn Project. Thus, each student is held to a high standard of personal and professional conduct.

(Sophomore – Senior Level) High School Criteria

I agree to:

- Maintain membership in good standing in FFA and/or 4-H Club;
- Enroll in at least one agriculture course throughout the school year; and
- Maintain a grade-point average that allows participation on the Show Team.

Please note: The Longhorn Project follows the University Interscholastic League's eligibility rules (No Pass No Play) as set forth by the state of Texas.

Personal Responsibility Criteria

I agree to:

- Participate in one Longhorn Project fund-raising activity per semester and commit to raising three-hundred dollars (\$300.00) and sell three (3) engraved bricks at the Western Heritage Pavilion (\$125 each) between July 1 – November, 30, 2018;
- Participate in TLBAA and TLBT events as determined;
- Participate in and accept a point management system to ensure standards are met as set-forth in the program;
- Serve as a student ambassador for The Longhorn Project at Johnson Space Center to promote the mission of The Longhorn Project at longhorn shows and related events;
- Adhere to the **Show Team Dress Code (Exhibit C)** as set forth by The Longhorn Project, assuring that clothing articles are free of references to alcohol, tobacco, drugs, political, or controversial topics that might reflect negatively on the Longhorn Project;
- Adhere to the policy that illegal substances for a minor or illegal substances in general are prohibited while at the Longhorn Project or participating in a Longhorn Project event and understand any occurrence is grounds for immediate termination from the Show Team;
- Work collaboratively and positively in a team environment; and
- Demonstrate consistently high standards of behavior and responsibility.

Show Team Participation Criteria

I agree to:

- Care for up to three (3) to four (4) longhorns that may include a heifer, bull, and or steer, as made available through breeder sponsorship participation and as determined by the Project Manager;
- Adhere to the feeding regimen as determined by the Project Manager;
- Adhere to the **2018-2019 Show Team Schedule and Routine Duties Protocol (Exhibit A)**;
- Notify the Project Manager in advance of planned absence;

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- Provide the name of parent, sibling or student who will complete assigned daily duties, in the event of an absence;
- Travel to ranches and shows between July 1, 2018 and July 2, 2019;
- Participate in leadership training and educational lessons;
- Exhibit the longhorns at twelve (12) to thirteen (13) shows in Texas and one in Louisiana; see the preliminary **2018 - 2019 Longhorn Project Trip and Show Schedule (Exhibit B)** and be responsible for the care of their assigned longhorns throughout the shows;
- Travel to and from shows, field trips, and events in assigned LHP vehicle as determined by the Project Manager and remain with the team at events and participate in all team activities;
- Pay for lunch meals and personal expenses when traveling to shows;
- Remain with the team at events and participate in all team activities or activities sponsored by the host show;
- Limit communication with breeders to in-person and in monthly progress letter. Electronic and social media communication not acceptable unless requested by Project Manager.
- Pay membership/registration fees to the following organizations: \$5.00 to South Texas Longhorn Association; \$5.00 to Ark-La-Tex Texas Longhorn Association; \$5.00 YMBL South Texas State Fair; \$25.00 to Texas Longhorn Breeders Association of America (TLBAA).

I, _____ have read, understand, and agree to meet
Student Name

criteria, responsibilities and expectations in The Longhorn Student Show Team Agreement. I also agree to sign a Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement if selected to be on the Show Team.

Student:

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Signed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian:

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Signed Name: _____

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**2018-2019 Show Team Schedule and Routine Protocols
(Exhibit A)**

I. Workdays, Team Meetings and Educational/Leadership Presentations

Average Time Per Week Day: 1.5 - 2.0 hours

Average Time Per Weekend Day: 1 hour in AM and 1 hour in PM

(Average time is based on 3-4 longhorns assigned to the student)

1. Monday & Wednesday: 4:00 – 5:30 PM
2. *Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday: 2:30 – 6:00 PM
*4:00 – 5:00 PM - Team Meeting and or Educational/Leadership Presentation
3. Saturday & Sunday:
Morning Hours: Between 7:00 – 10:00AM
Afternoon Hours: Between 3:00 – 6:00 PM

II. Program Duties and Requirements

Show Team students who participate in the program are required to:

1. Maintain a Student Notebook to include documentation on:
 - Attendance;
 - Barn and equipment cleaning;
 - Daily feeding and watering;
 - Bathing and grooming as listed in #2 below;
 - Veterinarian exams, inoculations, medications;
 - Educational and leadership lessons;
 - Longhorn registration certificates;
 - Copies of monthly hand-written breeder progress notes that are mailed to the breeders.
2. Complete daily duties each afternoon Monday – Sunday; each Saturday and Sunday morning; and as assigned in the morning*:
 - Clean pen completely; remove all manure and waste (damaged feed, sand, hay, etc.) from pen and walk-ways and empty wheelbarrow in assigned area;
 - Add clean sand to pen;
 - Clean feeders and feed proper amount of feed and hay as outlined in feeding regimen;
 - Clean and fill water buckets;
 - Put away all brooms, shovels, scoops, water hoses, etc.;
 - Turn out longhorns to the pasture as instructed by the Project Manager;
 - Clean pasture troughs as needed;
 - Lock all barn & feed room doors and gates before leaving the premises.

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**2018-2019 Show Team Schedule and Routine Protocols
(Exhibit A continued)**

* The Project Manager will feed the animals and fill water buckets in the mornings from Monday through Friday. The Project Manager may assign 1-2 student/s to feed in the morning if needed.

3. Complete weekly duties:

- Thoroughly groom and brush the longhorns: 3-4 times a week;
- Bathe biweekly the longhorns or more, if needed;
- Walk and work with the animals with a show-stick at a minimum of 15 minutes per animal: 3-4 times a week;
- Clean pen fences, equipment, lead ropes, halters one time a week or more if needed;
- Assist with worming, hoof trimming, etc., as needed;
- Participate in ranch management duties, such as, maintaining cleanliness of equipment, barn and student office, repairing barbed wire fencing, unloading or packing feed, hay, shavings, etc. as needed.

4. Complete monthly duties:

- Complete a hand-written progress note on status of assigned longhorns for each sponsor breeder and submit to the Project Manager for mailing.

5. Prepare for Show Trips

- Bathe and clip longhorns
- Load longhorns, feed, hay, supplies on trailers
- Clean pens and walkways after loading longhorns

6. After Show Trips

- Unload longhorns, feed and supplies
- Rinse-out trailer
- Wash trailer (on assigned workday)

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**2018--2019 Longhorn Project Ranch Tour/Trips, Show & Fundraiser Schedule
(Exhibit B)**

Show and Event Schedule and or Dates are subject to Change

July - August 20178- Travel to several ranches to tour the ranches and either select and pick-up longhorns or return longhorns

1. September/October 2018

Texas State Fair or East Texas State Fair (TBD)

October 12, 2019 – Fall fundraiser

Jam Night at The Western Heritage Pavilion

2. October 26–28, 2018

Fall Longhorn Show; Ark-La-Tex Texas Longhorn Association; TLBAA World Qualifying Show; George Henderson Arena, Lufkin, Texas; Costume Contest, Calf-drawing, Team-pinning, & other activities; Lufkin, TX (Location TDB)

3. November 8-11, 2018

Louisiana State Fair; TLBAA World Qualifying Show; Fair Grounds, Shreveport, LA; Ark-La-Tex Texas Longhorn Association

4. November 16 – 18, 2018 (Tentative)

Kaufman Police Association Longhorn Show, TLBAA World Qualifying Show; Henderson Fairgrounds, Athens, TX

5. December 12-14, 2018

Edna Winter Festival; TLBAA World Qualifying Show; South Texas Longhorn Association (STLA) Brackenridge Main Event Center: Edna, Texas; Ugly Sweater Contest

6. January 24, 2018

CCISD Livestock Show & Auction – Longhorn Show (Up to 1 Jr. heifer, 1 Sr. heifer, & 1 steer per student)

7. February 8-10, 2019

San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo; TLBAA World Qualifying Show; STLA AT&T Center Freeman Coliseum Grounds; San Antonio, Texas

8. March 10-12, 2018

Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo; TLBAA World Qualifying Show; NRG Center; Houston, Texas

March 2018 (Date TBD) – Spring fundraiser

Blast-off to Bingo to Support The Longhorn Project; 6:30 – 9:30 PM; Webster Civic Center, Webster, TX

9. March 14-16, 2019

Austin Livestock Show & Rodeo, TLBAA World Qualifying Show, STLA

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10. March 2019 (Dates TDB)

Young Men Business League (YMBL) South Texas Fair, World Qualifying Show, Beaumont, Texas

11. April 19 – 21, 2019

Rockdale Spring Show; TLBAA World Qualifying Show; South Texas Longhorn Association
Rockdale Fairgrounds; Rockdale, Texas

May 16, 2019

LHP End of Year Celebration; Gilruth Center

12. June 11 -16, 2019

Diann Chase Longhorn Scholarship Expo (Autobahn); Will Rogers Memorial Center: Fort Worth, Texas

13. June 26 – 30, 2019

TLBAA World Show, Belton County Expo, Belton, Texas

Barn Clean-up – Day after completion of TLBAA World Show

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**Show Team Dress Code
(Exhibit C)**

Longhorn Show (in the Ring) Dress Code:

All clothing articles must be clean and in good condition. The dress code consists of the following:

- Long-sleeve western shirt
- Jeans
- Socks
- Boots
- Belt

Longhorn Show (in the Exhibit Center) Dress Code:

- T-shirt
- Jeans or overalls
- Socks
- Boots (rubber boots acceptable)
- Belt
- Cowboy Hat or Cap; acceptable but not required

The Longhorn Project - Barn Work Dress Code:

- Closed-toe non-permeable shoes or boots (rubber boots acceptable)
- Socks
- Shirt
- Jeans, shorts or overalls