

Date: _____

Gold Merit Contest

The purpose of this competition is to recognize individual members of the TLBT for outstanding achievement with respect to their project and their promotion of the Texas Longhorn Breed. This award will be presented at the annual National Youth Show.

Selection Criteria:

- A. All entrants must adhere to the guidelines set forth in the Gold Merit Packet.
- B. All entrants must have participated in at least one affiliate sponsored youth event.
- C. All entrants must participate in all portions of the contest. Standard record book forms have been prepared and will be available on the TLBAA website. Paper copies can be supplied to TLBT members upon request. All record books **must** use the approved forms and **must** be placed in a colored folder (3 holes with brads). Participants must make two photocopies of their original record book for judging purposes.
- D. An appointed committee will judge all entries.
- E. Awards will be presented in the following age categories:

Junior	up to 9 years of age as of January 1
Intermediate	10 to 12 years of age as of January 1
Teen	13 to 15 years of age as of January 1
Senior	16 to 19 years of age as of January 1

Gold Merit Awards

First place in each age group will be awarded a heifer calf. Awards are subject to change depending on the number of donations received. Second and third place will also be awarded prizes. If you know of someone that can donate, please contact the TLBAA office at (817) 625-6241 with his or her name and phone number.

The distribution of heifers to winners will be determined by a random drawing.

I. Public Speaking Contest

This contest is a portion of the Gold Merit Award. **Junior** participants will present a **1 to 3 minute speech** on **What I have learned from my Longhorn project.** **Intermediate, Teen, and Senior** participants will present a **3 to 5 minute** speech on an appropriate topic that relates to the Texas Longhorn and beef industry. Points will be deducted for speeches that do not conform to the required time allocations. **One copy of the speech will be given to a designated Gold Merit Committee person at check-in time.** The speech should be memorized, but the contestant may use note cards, for reference. Speeches may not be read. PowerPoint presentations or appropriate visual aids, such as posters or photographs, may be used to enhance the impact of the speech.

****All contestants are required to dress in show-ring attire.****

The criteria for judging include:

1. Accuracy of subject matter
2. Delivery
3. Knowledge of the subject matter
4. Grammar
5. Time limits for each age category
6. Creativity

II. Interview

At the conclusion of the participant's speech, the judging committee will interview each contestant.

The criteria for judging include:

1. Spontaneity of response
2. Sincerity of response
3. Ability to answer questions concerning the subject matter of the speech
4. Knowledge of the Texas Longhorn breed
5. Familiarity with your project

Judges will use a rating sheet and a point system to evaluate the speech presentation and interview. Contestants may receive a copy of their ratings upon request.

III. Project Book

All contestants must submit completed record books **to a designated Gold Merit Committee person at check-in time**. The book must clearly reflect that it is the contestant's own work. Contestants who can type are encouraged to do so. Otherwise, the record book should be completed in the contestant's own handwriting. All record books must be completed on the standardized record book forms. These record book forms are available on the TLBAA website. Paper copies can be supplied to TLBT members upon request.

The record book forms must be placed in a colored folder (3 holes with brads). Additional pictures or drawings can be added as long as pages are kept in order. Remember, this is a record book and should be easy for the judges to read required information. Points may be deducted if the book becomes too cluttered or disorganized.

Tips on Developing Your Gold Merit Speech

Choose a Subject

Select a topic you are familiar with or is of interest to you. This can be any subject that relates to Longhorn cattle. Often, material from your daily experience with the animals will make an outstanding talk.

The selection of your subject can indicate to the judges your personal involvement with the project. Is this something you understand or did you just memorize material?

Research Your Material

You may think you “know it all” but you probably don’t! Research your subject, talk to people, and be sure that all of your facts are correct. Make this a learning experience for YOU – not just something you do for the judge.

Develop an Outline

- List the important points to be covered
- Arrange the points in a logical order

Organize the Presentation

Introduction: This is the interest-getter. The presenter must make the audience feel that the subject is important. Be original and clever, but keep the introduction brief to save time for the main part of the presentation. Remember to introduce yourself at the beginning of your speech.

Body: This is the “show and tell” part where TLBT members exhibit “know how” and skill in getting it across. A convincing presenter uses his own words and avoids memorizing the talking part of the presentation. You should talk to – not at – the audience. Practice talking in complete sentences. Avoid using slang expressions or just trailing off in the middle of a thought.

Summary: The summary reviews the important points of the presentation. A good summary is short, concise and pertinent. This is the last chance to sell the idea, give information and motivate the audience to follow the suggestions given.

Consider the Title

The most effective Titles are: Short! Descriptive! Image making!

Making the Presentation Effective

Practice good posture; stand tall. Do not lean on the table or twist one foot behind the other. Maintain eye contact with the audience – talk to someone. Know your material well enough that you can present it, not just recite or read it. Speak in a voice that is natural, distinct and loud enough to be heard. A friendly and confident tone of voice is recommended when speaking. Avoid mannerisms such as pushing back hair or rocking back and forth as these are distracting to the audience. Dress to go in the Show Ring. Be neat and well groomed. Refer to the dress code in the TLBT Handbook for the showing of cattle. Smile to indicate interest and enthusiasm for the subject. Avoid using such phrases as “you know” and “all that stuff”. Be sure your grammar is correct. Look and act as if you are enjoying the presentation.

Know the time limit and keep your presentation within the limit.

**2010
TLBT GOLD MERIT
PROJECT RECORD-ACTIVITY BOOK
JUNIOR DIVISION**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Age as of January 1, 2010 _____

Grade in School: _____

TLBT Membership Number: _____

Statement of TLBT Member

I personally have prepared this record-activity book and certify that it accurately reflects my work.

TLBT Member's Signature

Date

TELL US ABOUT YOUR TEXAS LONGHORN

Registered Name of Longhorn: _____

Does your Longhorn have a nickname? _____

Date of Birth: _____

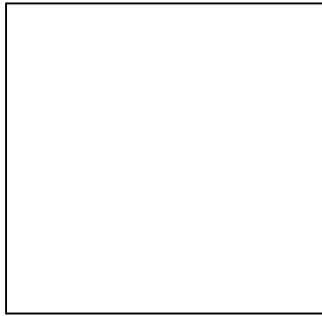
Where did you get your animal? (family raised, purchased, donated, etc.) _____

What do you want to do in the future with your animal? _____

What do you like most about your Texas Longhorn? _____

If you could change something about your Texas Longhorn, what would it be? _____

All registered Texas Longhorns are required to have a "holding brand."
Draw a picture of your calf's holding brand in the box below.



Where is the brand located on your animal? _____

Longhorns are measured by Tip-to-Tip, Total horn and Base. If you have measured horns, what are your animal's horn measurements?

Date:	Tip-to-Tip:	Total Horn:	Base:
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Have you ever weighed your animal? If so, what did he weigh?

Date: _____	Weight: _____
Date: _____	Weight: _____
Date: _____	Weight: _____
Date: _____	Weight: _____

PICTURES OF YOU AND YOUR TEXAS LONGHORN

ATTACH A COPY OF TLBAA REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

TELL US ABOUT YOU

How long have you been a TLBT member? _____

How did you get involved in showing Texas Longhorns? _____

Have you held any TLBT offices or served on any TLBT committees?

What is your favorite part of taking care of your Texas Longhorn?

We all need help with caring for our animals. Who helps you take care of your Texas Longhorn? _____

Do you listen to what the judges say when you are showing your calf?
What do the judges say about your calf? _____

What things have you learned from taking care of your Texas Longhorn? _____

In your opinion, what is the most challenging part of showing Texas Longhorns? _____

What is your favorite part of showing Texas Longhorns? _____

FEEDING AND CARING FOR YOUR ANIMAL

What kind of hay do you feed your Texas Longhorn? _____

About how much money does a bale of hay cost? _____

What kind of feed does your animal eat? _____

About how much does a bag of feed cost? _____

About how many pounds of feed does your Longhorn eat each day?

Has your animal ever been the veterinarian? _____

If so, what for? _____

Did you get to go with your animal to the veterinarian? _____

Have you ever had your animal's feet trimmed? _____

About how much did it cost to have its feet trimmed? _____

Did you have to buy any equipment for you animal this year? _____

If so, what did you buy? _____
