

3660 Thousand Oaks Drive, Suite 126 San Antonio, TX 78247 Direct 210.236.9761 Toll Free 800.839.9453 Fax 210.826.4933

For Immediate Release January 7, 2016 (800) 839-9453

## Texas Big Game Awards 2016-2017 College Scholarship Applications Now Available

San Antonio – Applications are now available for the 16th Annual Texas Big Game Awards (TBGA) Wildlife Conservation College Scholarship Program, sponsored by Carter's Country Outdoor Stores and the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Texas. Celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, the Texas Big Game Awards will award \$15,000 in college scholarships for the 2016-2017 school year.

All applicants for the TBGA scholarship program must major in an agriculture and/or natural resourcerelated field of study. Based on where you live within the TBGA program's regional designations, one (1) \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded to an applicant residing in each of the eight TBGA Regions at their respective regional banquets. The overall top scholarship applicant will receive a \$3,000 college scholarship to be awarded at the Texas Wildlife Association's (TWA) 31<sup>st</sup> annual convention in July.

Any entering college freshman (graduating high school senior), or entering college sophomore, or entering college junior is eligible to apply for one of the available scholarships. The scholarship applications will be reviewed and ranked by a scoring committee using set criteria. Applicants do not have to participate in the TBGA to be eligible for the scholarships.

To download the application, please visit <u>www.TexasBigGameAwards.org/scholarships.php</u> and all applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2016.

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About the TBGA: Celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Texas Big Game Awards (TBGA), a partnership of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the Texas Wildlife Association (TWA), continues to be the leader in recognizing the contributions that landowners, land managers and responsible hunters make to managing and conserving wildlife and wildlife habitat on Texas' private lands. The Texas Big Game Awards program is designed to recognize 1) the quality of big game animals in Texas, 2) the hunters who harvest these animals, 3) the land managers who produce these animals through their management efforts, 4) the importance of our hunting heritage, and 5) the achievements of young and new hunters. For more information on the program visit www.TexasBigGameAwards.org or call (800) 839-9453.