

2015 4-H Honey Bee Essay Contest

Sponsored by The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.

Each year the Foundation sponsors an essay writing contest for active (fees paid) members of 4-H clubs across the country. There are cash prizes for the national winners: 1st Place - \$750.00; 2nd Place - \$500.00; 3rd Place - \$250.00. National and state winners receive a book about honey bees, beekeeping, or honey.

Topic – **“Planting for Bees from Backyards and Up.”**

Beekeeping has become difficult due to lack of native plants for forage. In this essay you will be required to discuss ways that habitats can be modified to be “bee friendly.” Does your community allow roadsides and open land to grow wildflowers and encourage native planting of bee friendly plants?

Survey your community to see what is being done to help honey bees. Include your state in your survey to see if there is a wildflower planting program available or any other program that could aid the honey bee.

Scope of Research – This essential judging criterion accounts for 40% of the score. The number of sources, the authority of the sources, and the variety of the sources all are evaluated. Personal interviews with beekeepers and others familiar with the subject are valued sources of information and should be documented. Sources that are not cited in the end notes should be listed in a “Resources” or “Bibliography” list. **Note that in the US, honey bee is spelled properly as two words, despite what the spell checkers and dictionaries may tell you.**

Contest Rules (ALL required):

1. Contest is open only to **active** 4-H Club members. Previous national winners, at any level, are ineligible. Former state winners are eligible to re-enter.
2. Format should be typewriter or computer-generated, double-spaced, 12-point Times or similar (serif) type style, following standard manuscript format.
3. Submit an electronic copy as a Microsoft Word-compatible document, with a file ending of “.doc,” “.docx,” or “.rtf.”
4. Write on designated subject only; NO exceptions.
5. All factual statements must be referenced with bibliographical-style endnotes.
6. The essay must contain 750 to 1,000 words. This does not include the endnotes, the bibliography, references, or essayist’s biographical sketch (which should be on a separate page).
7. Essays will be judged on (a) scope of research – 40%; (b) accuracy – 30%; (c) creativity – 10%; (d) conciseness – 10%; and (e) logical development of the topic – 10%.
8. A brief biographical sketch of the essayist, including date of birth, gender, complete mailing address, email address, and telephone number, must accompany the essay.
9. Individual essays for the State of California should be mailed or emailed to Dr. Elina Niño, Entomology Department, University of California, Davis, CA 95616, in time to be received **on or before February 20, 2015**. The e-mail address is: elnino@ucdavis.edu.

All national entries become the property of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc., and may be published or used as it sees fit. National winning essays will be posted at: <http://honeybee.preservation.org>.