



# River Valley Beekeepers' Association Youth Beekeeper Sponsorship Program

With about one third of the food we eat dependent on pollination by honeybees, it is easy to see that honeybees are vital to our food chain and important to our society. The honeybee's importance makes it essential that new beekeepers be recruited. In light of this, the River Valley Beekeepers' Association is partnering with Central Beekeepers Supply and Rural Route Farms, in a Youth Beekeeper Sponsorship Program.

The program involves selecting two Junior or Senior High students from the River Valley area for participation in the program. Candidates must submit for evaluation a 500 to 750 word (approximate) essay on any one of the following topics:

- Why do you want to be a beekeeper?
- The value of bees and bee products in our economy
- The place for bees in our society and culture

In addition, candidates must have parental consent and be reasonably assured that they are not allergic to bee stings. Candidates must submit their application and essay to the River Valley Beekeepers' Association no later than January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Candidate selection is based on essay quality as judged by the River Valley Beekeepers' Association.

Winning applicants will get:

- Woodenware for one complete starter hive from Central Beekeepers Supply
- One nucleus bee colony or bee package from Rural Route Farms
- Basic tools and protective gear from River Valley Beekeepers' Association
- One year free River Valley Beekeepers' Association membership
- Mentoring from the River Valley Beekeepers' Association

Winning applicants are expected to:

- Provide written consent from parent or guardian
- Provide a suitable location for their hive
- Attend at least 6 River Valley Beekeepers' Association monthly meetings in 2019
- Attend the River Valley Beekeepers' Association free beginning beekeeper class (recommended but not required)
- Manage their hive for a minimum of one year from the time of receipt of the bee nucleus or package
- Return bees, woodenware and equipment to the River Valley Beekeepers' Association should they choose not to or fail to fulfill the above expectations.



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## Application

Candidate's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

My signature below indicates:

- I qualify as a candidate for the River Valley Beekeepers' Association Youth Beekeeper Sponsorship Program as described on the preceding page.
- I will fulfill the candidate expectations as described on the preceding page.
- I understand that there are inherent risks associated with beekeeping (e.g., beestings) and agree to not hold the sponsors of this program accountable for any harm that may befall me or my family while engaged in this endeavor. Anyone known to be or suspected to be allergic to bee stings should not apply.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Applicant essay may be submitted via email to the River Valley Beekeepers' Association at [rivalleybeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:rivalleybeekeepers@gmail.com). Include the words "RVBKA contest" in the subject line and be sure the applicant's name is included. Completed applications must be received by the River Valley Beekeepers' Association no later than January 31, 2019. Mail applications to:

River Valley Beekeepers' Association  
C/O Ron Schwartz  
20 Rolling River Ln  
Russellville, AR 72802