

Utah County Beekeepers Association Bee a Beekeeper Program Application

Corlissa Jensen (Age 15)

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Bees will be kept at this address.

Horticulture, Bees and Me

Due to surprises in my class schedule, I ended up taking a Horticulture class this year. This class has surprised me because it was not in my plans, but I have become highly interested in horticulture and see it now as a possible career choice. While in this class, I was required to do a research project on some kind of insect and its effects on plants. About this time, my parents had started working toward getting beehives and had joined the beekeepers' association, so I decided to do my research on bees. This report was the beginning of my growing fascination with bees. I learned that they are more than just a stinging insect. They are extremely beneficial to horticulture and the survival of man. They pollinate our plants and help in the production of food for many nations. I also learned that due to an unknown reason, these important pollinators are dying off, and their demise is a threat to our food source and supply. Because of the declining bee population, I figured I could do something to help lessen the danger and that raising bees would be one way to help strengthen the bee population and keep them alive.

During my research I also learned that bees are social insects that live in specific castes that are determined by birth. These castes are: a queen, drones and workers. Each of these specific castes has a specialized job to accomplish. The bees within the caste live their entire lives focused on their one task. I want to learn more about these castes and their specialized jobs, as well as gain knowledge of their physical characteristics. By keeping bees I will gain first hand knowledge of what defines each of these bees and observe the specialized jobs each is meant to accomplish.

As I observe and care for the bees I will especially watch for how the bees react to certain things, such as their reaction to different kinds of weather and temperature. I have also researched the different diseases and pests that can harm bees, such as

American Foulbrood, European Foulbrood and Chalkbrood. As I have learned, each of these diseases is characterized by different symptoms. I will watch carefully for things that could harm the bees as well as their function in the environment. I will research medical treatments for each of these diseases and be prepared to keep the bee colony healthy.

As it happens, I cannot remember every single thing that occurs in my daily life. As this is the case, I plan to chart and write down observations concerning the activities of the bees. I plan to record the temperature and weather each day that I check the hive and these records will be kept in a notebook that is designated just for my beekeeping experience. I will document as exactly as is possible the behavior I observe in the bees under the various circumstances. I hope to understand why the bees swarm, as well as how they can live and thrive in a wooden box in the harsh environments of Utah. Because my parents will also be keeping separate hives, I will be able to document similarities and differences I see in separate hives. I will also observe the activities of the bees during pollination, and pay particular attention which plants they pollinate the most and how much honey is produced during the season. Because of the abundance of fruit and vegetable plants grown in our yard along with the large number of flowering plants, I will be able to observe the effect bees have on the amount and size of our produce.

I am excited at the opportunity I have to learn about bees. Through this experience I will develop a greater sense of responsibility, as well as a greater understanding of man's interdependence with nature. I find the world of horticulture and the elements that comprise it to be fascinating. Beekeeping is something that I never would have thought to do with my life, but now I find it intriguing and I want to learn more. I hope that I can have the chance to be in the Bee a Beekeeper program and learn more about bees and all that they affect.

Program Rules:

Equipment and Maintenance:

1. Bees, equipment and tools provided must be kept and cared for properly.
2. The participant and the Utah County Beekeepers Association will jointly own the bees, equipment, and tools until the conclusion of the program (one calendar year). At that point, they will become the property of the participant.
3. The participant agrees to pay any additional costs associated with the program.
4. If the participant moves from Utah or Salt Lake County or does not follow the provisions of this contract, they will forfeit their ownership to any bees, equipment or tools supplied by the Utah County Beekeepers Association.
5. The participant hereby acknowledges that the Utah County Beekeepers Association assumes no responsibility for any accident that may occur during my participation in the program.

Academic and Community Service

6. Participants will send a "Thank You" note to their sponsors and a copy of this letter will be provided to the Utah County Beekeepers Association.
7. Participants will supply two letters, i.e. June and October, to their sponsors indicating the progress of their hive. Follow the written requirement format.
8. Participants will supply at least two letters of progress, i.e. June and October, for the year to the Utah County Beekeepers Association. Follow the written requirement format.
9. Participants will attend at least three association meetings throughout the year (membership to the association is included for the duration of the program).
10. Two public speaking engagements which may include any of the following venues: association meetings, farm field days, county or state fairs, and/or school classrooms. Report given may follow the outline of the written requirement.

This contract is to be properly signed and returned to the Utah County Beekeepers Association by Friday, February 12th, 2010 along with the written portion.

Required Signatures:

Applicant: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

