



**Love the outdoors?
Enjoy learning new things?
Up for a challenge?**

The Alabama Beekeepers Association is sponsoring a mentorship program for students to learn how to be a beekeeper!

Open to all Alabama students 13-20 years of age who are new to beekeeping.

Deadline for entry is June 15, 2026

Visit alabamabeekeepers.com to find a local beekeeping club and Young Beekeeper information.



ABA Young Beekeeper Scholarship

Instructions To Applicant:

1. Write a 500 – 1000 word essay about honeybees, their importance and why you would like to become a beekeeper.
2. Read the Application Package. Sign the ***Affirmation and Waiver of Claims*** and ***Appendix A*** on the lines designated “Applicant” and give to your parents/guardians for their signatures. Make sure all lines are filled and all questions are answered.
3. After your parents have signed submit your essay and completed Application Documents to your local beekeeping club by **June 15, 2026**. Local beekeeper clubs may be found at alabamabeekeepers.com.

Instructions To Parents/Guardians:

1. Read the Application Package thoroughly. Fill out and Sign the ***Affirmation and Waiver of Claims*** and ***Appendix A*** on lines designated “Parent or Guardian”.

Instructions to Local Beekeeping Club:

1. Upon receipt of Essays and Application Package(s) your club will need to choose a member or members to mentor the Applicant to see that all topics listed in ***Appendix B*** are all covered.
2. Sign ***Appendix A*** and ***Appendix B*** on lines designated for the Local Beekeeping Organization. Signatures should be from an officer of the club.
3. Submit the following to the Young Beekeeper Chairperson at the address below:
1) ***Essay***, 2) ***Affirmation of Understanding and Waiver of Claims***, 3) ***Appendix A***, 4) ***Appendix B*** and 5) ***A photo of the applicant***.

All documents must be complete with signatures and postmarked no later than July 15, 2026.
Mail To:

Roslyn Horton
14057 E Highway 27
Newville, AL 36353

Deadline for local entry is June 15, 2026
Deadline for state entry is July 15, 2026
The winner will be notified by August 15, 2026

Affirmation of Understanding and Waiver of Claims



As part of the Alabama Beekeeper Association's effort to outreach into the community, a Young Beekeeper Scholarship (hereinafter referred to as "scholarship) has been established. This scholarship is intended to provide the equipment and instructions to a new, young, beginning beekeeper over a two year period and as defined in **Appendix A** attached. One new candidate per year is allowed under this program. Therefore, there is a possibility for two candidates in any given year to participate in this program.

This scholarship is intended to be conducted and supervised in good faith by volunteer local beekeepers having varied degrees of experience but who have agreed to abide to predefined guidelines and methods as shown in **Appendix B** attached.

The purpose of this document is to provide proof that both the candidate and the candidate's parent/guardian have read and fully understand and completely agree to the contents of both **Appendices' A** and **B** and hereby attest to that by their signatures below. Furthermore, by their signatures below, they, the candidate and the candidate's parent/guardian, entirely release from any and all claims, arising or resulting either during the course of, or afterward of this program, any and all members of the Local Beekeeping Association as well as the ABA itself and any other sponsoring organization, of any damages and/or injuries, that may arise as a result of the candidate's willing participation in this scholarship.

Print Candidate's Name

Print Parent/Guardian's Name

Candidate's Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone Number

Candidate's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Email Address

Witness's Signature

Date

Print Witness's Name

Submit with Appendix A and Appendix B

Appendix A



YOUNG BEEKEEPER
SCHOLARSHIP

The Alabama Beekeepers Association will sponsor a young beekeeper.

Terms:

- ▲ The individual will be provided protective clothing, basic tools, bees and wooden equipment for two hives. Along with the bees and equipment they will be provided mentorship by an experienced beekeeper(s) from their local organization for 25 months starting upon receiving the award at the ABA State meeting..
- ▲ The winner will be required to attend their local beekeeper meetings as they are scheduled. The winner will also be able to attend statewide seminars and meetings at no charge to the student as they will be sponsored by the ABA.
- ▲ Any youth between 13–20 years of age, within the State of Alabama will be eligible. Applicants will not be eligible if the youth has bees and/or a first or second degree family member is a beekeeper. Written parental consent in the ***Affirmation of Understanding and Waiver of Claims*** is required.
- ▲ If the student drops out of the program for any reason during the two year mentorship period, or if the student is expelled for excessive absences and/or a failure to co-operate in training, all equipment and bees will be surrendered to the local beekeeping association. Property surrendered to the local beekeeping association will be used for public and educational purposes and not for private use of any individual. In addition, if the youth's academic pursuits interfere with caring for the bees or their responsibilities under this scholarship, the scholarship will be revoked. All equipment and bees will be surrendered to the local association and used as described above.
- ▲ Costs for non-donated equipment and bees will be provided by the Alabama Beekeeper's Association.
- ▲ Local beekeeping organizations retain the option to fully sponsor any applicant that is not chosen by the ABA. Tuition for statewide events will not be provided in this situation.

APPLICANT NAME _____ **BIRTH DATE** _____

ADDRESS _____

COUNTY _____ **PHONE** _____ **GRADE IN SCHOOL** _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ **Email** _____
(I understand the rights and responsibilities of my child in regards to this scholarship)

APPLICANT: Briefly describe your interests and goals on a separate sheet of paper

Sponsoring Club Name & Officer Signature

Date



Appendix B

Advisor Guidelines

The term of commitment will be two years or two one year increments. Average time commitment will be approximately 12 hours total per year excluding travel time and adviser's bee yard visits. The mentor must be available via email or telephone to answer all beekeeping related questions that the student may have. In addition to the 12 hour commitment the adviser is encouraged to invite the student beekeeper to accompany him on trips to work the adviser's bees to the extent that all basic "bee yard" activities are covered at least once (time not included in the 12 hour commitment).

1. Advise and instruct student beekeeper on the proper procedure for building supers (all 3 sized – deep, medium and shallow) to include:
 - The difference in soft wood and cypress to include the need for pre-drilling all cypress wood prior to nailing.
 - Caution against assembling with handles upside down or inside the hive.
 - Proper gluing of all joints.
 - Proper painting.
2. Advise and instruct the student on the different options available for frames and the advantages of each one.
 - Proper assembly of frames of frames to include the importance of glue and the end bar nails.
 - Frame styles and related foundation options.
 - For beeswax foundation:
 - The reason for using eyelets and how to install
 - The proper procedure for wiring frames (all sizes)
 - Options for imbedding cross wires
3. Advise the number of frames to use in the hive, when, where and why.
4. Advise and instruct the student on all other hive parts and how and when to use them.
5. Instruct the student on the proper installation of package bees and assist the student in doing so.
6. Instruct the student on making a walk away (no queen) and a standard split and preferably assist the student in making a split by either or both methods.
7. Instruct the student on the proper procedure for hiving a swarm.
8. Meet with the student and assist in setting up his or her first hive.
9. Arrange to meet with the student at the student's hives one week after the initial installation of his colonies to assure queen release (if a package) and monitor colony health if otherwise.
10. Meet with student one month after initial installation and go through the hive as needed and explain what you are doing and why.
11. Meet with the student at the student's hives 2 months after installation of his colonies to advise on the need and proper procedure for supering and the do's and don'ts of using a queen excluder.
 - The adviser should change and supering date based on what he is seeing in his colonies i.e. base supering date on the current year's honey flow or other factors that may affect the need for supers.



12. Continue to meet with the student at his hives at 1 month intervals until surplus honey is removed.
 - Advisor will instruct the student in the methods for getting the bees out of the production supers (fume board, bee blower, and smoker).
 - Advisor will instruct and assist in removing and handling surplus honey.
 - Instruct and assist the student in extracting the honey, proper procedure for bottling and displaying strained honey.
 - Advise and instruct the student on the production, packaging (to include 25 hour minimum deep freezing) of the various comb honey products.
 - Advise and instruct the student on storage of unused equipment.
13. Advise and instruct the student on the proper use and how to apply the various medication options for fall treatment of the bees.
14. Advise and instruct the student on monitoring the bees winter stores.
15. Advise and instruct the student on the methods for swarm control and collecting swarms.
16. Advise and instruct the student on spring supering relative to spring build up and medication removal.
17. Arrange at least one meeting with the student and the Alabama state bee inspector.
18. Be available at all times to field questions via phone or internet.
19. If at all possible, the adviser should invite the student to assist him or her in the day-to-day visits to the adviser's bee yards to the extent that the adviser feels adequate.
20. Advisor will arrange for state inspection of the hives once a year and if possible be present with student for these visits. The State Bee Inspector will have the final word on the condition of the hives and how well they are being maintained in the event any determination is needed.

If the mentor(s) are not familiar with any particular aspect of the above educational requirements they need to do one of the following: 1) familiarize themselves with those practices in order to teach them. 2) Solicit the help of another beekeeper who is familiar with that item, or 3) find an educational resource (book, magazine article, online video, etc.) that the student can learn from.

Local Club/Organization Signature

Date

Mentor Sign & Print

Date

Additional Mentor(s) Sign & Print

Date