

Beekeeping Essay Contest

The Beekeeping Essay Contest allows 4-H'ers to use their writing and research skills in developing an essay on a beekeeping-related topic. Cash awards are available to winners on the national, state and county levels.

All essays are to be submitted to james@utk.edu. The submission deadline is March 10, 2025.

2024 State Awards:

First place: Gabrielle Lewis – Shelby County

Second place: Zoe Gil – Knox County

Third place: Autumn Gwinn – Blount County

2025 National Awards (sponsored by the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees):

First place: \$750.00

Second place: \$500.00

Third place: \$250.00

2025 Topic: **The Importance of Youth in Beekeeping: How 4-H Members Can Make a Difference!**

For this essay, a 4-H student should answer these questions: 1) Why youth is important in beekeeping? 2) How can 4-H members make a difference? 3) How can more young people get involved in beekeeping? 4) What are your future plans as a beekeeper? 5) What is a major contribution a young beekeeper has brought to the industry?

More information about the [4-H Beekeeping Essay Competition](#).

2025 Rules

1. Contest is open to **active** 4-H club members only. 4-H members who have previously placed first, second, or third **at the national level** are not eligible; other state winners are eligible to re-enter. Failure to meet any one rule will disqualify entry.
2. Write on the designated subject only.

3. All factual statements and interview references must be cited in a “sources” or “bibliography” list.
4. On a separate page, please include a brief biographical statement of the writer including mailing address, email address and phone number.
5. Essay must encompass the designated topic in 750 to 1,000 words. Word count does not include sources, works cited or the writer’s biographical statement.
6. Essay must be typewritten or computer-generated on single-sided pages and formatted following standard manuscript format using double-spaced type and 12pt font in legible font face.
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. Essayists **should not** submit essays directly to The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. office.
9. All entries become the property of the Foundation and may be published or used as it sees fit. No essay will be returned.



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