

# 2015 Beekeeper Apprenticeship Application

## Orange County Beekeepers Association

Due: December 13, 2015

Email completed and signed application to:

[theoeba@gmail.com](mailto:theoeba@gmail.com)

Or send an email to the above email address to make alternate arrangements for submitting your application.

The Orange County Beekeepers Association (OCBA) supports healthy honey bees and promotes beekeeping in Orange County NC and the surrounding areas. The Association provides a beginning beekeeping class, forum for area beekeepers to share information, discuss honey bees, beekeeping related topics and to inspire the next generation of beekeepers.

### **Apprenticeship Program:**

OCBA promotes beekeeping to all ages. One way that the OCBA accomplishes this is by annually sponsoring up to two new beekeepers between the ages of 10 and 18 and helping them set up their first honey bee hives. The goal of the Apprenticeship Program is to bring young people into beekeeping and provide the support they need to become successful beekeepers. The OCBA will provide: 1) assistance to the selected Apprentice beekeepers free of charge by enrolling them in a new beekeepers course, 2) each apprentice with an experienced beekeeping mentor, 3) basic equipment needed and 4) membership in OCBA entitling attendance at monthly meetings and other activities as well as participation on our email list. Successful completion of the apprenticeship will result in the applicants gaining permanent ownership of all equipment. More details on what is provided and required through this program can be found below in the OCBA Apprenticeship Program Terms.

The selected applicants will demonstrate the following in their application for the OCBA Apprenticeship Program:

- Enthusiasm and willingness to learn and participate in all aspects of beekeeping
- The ability to work both collaboratively and independently
- Highly motivated and responsible
- Parental support

## **OCBA Apprenticeship Program Terms**

Each year the OCBA Executive Committee will sponsor up to 2 Applicants for the Apprenticeship Program. The selected Apprentices will be provided with the following items and benefits at no charge to help them get started as successful beekeepers:

- First year membership in the Orange County Beekeepers Association
- Admission and materials for the OCBA Bee School
- 2 Colonies of Honey Bees
- Usually a 3 lb package of bees and a queen but this may vary
- Two complete hives
- Bottom board
- Three medium supers
- Frames and foundation (assembly required)
- Inner cover
- Telescoping cover
- Smoker
- Jacket and veil combination
- Hive tool
- Bee Brush
- Top Feeder

All equipment and materials provided to the selected Apprentices will remain the property of Orange County Beekeepers Association. Upon completion of all Apprenticeship Program Requirements and one year after the completion of the OCBA Bee School, the equipment and materials will become the property of the Apprentice.

Total value of this equipment, materials and instruction is estimated to be over \$500.

## **Apprenticeship Program Requirements**

The Apprentice is required to do the following to fulfill their commitments under the OCBA Apprenticeship Program:

1. Remain a resident of Orange County North Carolina for the duration of the Apprenticeship Program
2. Properly keep and care for all equipment and materials provided by the Orange County Beekeepers Association
3. Stay in contact with their beekeeping mentor on at least a monthly basis
4. Keep a journal to record beekeeping activities throughout the year, which may include photographs and other material to support the end-of-year presentation to the OCBA
5. Purchase any additional supplies, materials and/or equipment needed to keep the provided honey bee colonies alive and healthy during their participation in the Apprenticeship Program. This is estimated to be between \$50 and \$150 during the term of the Apprenticeship Program.

6. Attend the OCBA Bee School and any associated workshops or field days scheduled for school participants. The OCBA Bee School is generally 1 night per week beginning in January and finishing in March or April. More specific dates will be posted on the OCBA website (<http://theocba.org/>) when they are available.
7. Attend 8 out of 11 regularly scheduled OCBA monthly meetings during the term of the Apprenticeship Program
8. Assist the OCBA Fair Committee in the preparation, development and/or installation of the OCBA display at the North Carolina State Fair.
9. Volunteer for and participate in one public outreach event on behalf of the OCBA
10. Give a 10 to 15 minute presentation at one of the OCBA monthly meetings on their experiences, observations and lessons learned during their one year Apprenticeship.

When all requirements of the Apprenticeship Program have been completed by the Apprentice and attested to by the Apprentice's Mentor, then both the Apprentice and their Mentor will complete and sign the Apprenticeship Program Checklist. The signed Apprenticeship Program Checklist is submitted to the Secretary of the OCBA for signature. The Secretary's signature signifies the Apprentice's successful completion of all Program requirements and transfers the ownership of all provided equipment and materials to the Apprentice.

If at any point the Apprentice is unable or unwilling to complete the requirements of the Apprenticeship Program, the Apprentice may be required to return all provided equipment and materials to a designated OCBA representative, in good condition, or to reimburse the OCBA for the cost of the equipment and materials. Under extenuating circumstances, the OCBA Executive Committee may entertain the Apprentice's request to waive this requirement. The decision to waive the requirement is at the sole discretion of the OCBA Executive Committee.

**Application for the OCBA Apprenticeship Program:**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**County of Residence:**

**Phone Number:**

**Email Address:**

**Age:**

If you are under 18 years of age and/or do not currently possess a driver's license and have access to a vehicle then please provide the following information about a parent or guardian that does currently possess a driver's license, has access to a vehicle and is willing to support your participation in the OCBA Apprenticeship Program.

Name:

Address:

County of Residence:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Questions:

Have you or your immediate family members ever kept honey bees before?

Please tell us why you are interested in becoming a beekeeper

Please tell us why you would be a good candidate for the OCBA Apprenticeship Program.

**OCBA Apprenticeship Agreement**

The Apprentice hereby acknowledges and agrees to the terms of the OCBA Apprenticeship Program as described above. Additionally, the Applicant acknowledges that the Orange County Beekeepers Association and its representatives assume no responsibility or liability for any accident or damages that may occur during participation in the OCBA Apprenticeship Program or associated activities.

This contract is to be properly signed and returned to the OCBA by December 13, 2015 along with the remainder of the application.

Required signatures:

Applicant:

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Parent/Guardian:

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