

# 2014 4-H Honey Bee Essay Contest

Sponsored by The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.

Each year the Foundation sponsors an essay writing contest for active (fees paid) members of 4-H clubs across the country. There are cash prizes for the national winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$750.00; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$500.00; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$250.00. National and state winners receive a book about honey bees, beekeeping, or honey.

## **All Essays Must Be Submitted Electronically!**

Topic – **“Beekeeping in Colonial Times”**

To the earliest European settlers in the New World, honey bees were an important part of their existence. Cargo manifests show that honey bees were among the first shipments of animals. How were they shipped? Why were they important? Why were they so important to the colonists? How does that differ from today?

Although the scope of your research, as listed below, is an essential judging criterion, accounting for 40% of your score, in this type of historical investigation it truly is the most important criterion. The number of sources consulted, authority of those sources, and variety of sources are all evaluated. The more authoritative the source, the better. Perhaps a good place to get an idea of the how things transpired is the book, “Bees in America” written by Tammy Horn. Then, find out how creative you can be searching the web for historical records.

Personal interviews with beekeepers and others familiar with the subject are valued sources of information and should be documented. Sources, which are not cited in the endnotes, should be listed in a “Resources” or “Bibliography” list.

**Note that in the US, “honey bee” is spelled properly as two words, despite what the spell checkers and dictionaries may tell you.**

Contest Rules:

1. Contest is open only to **active** (dues paid) 4-H Club members. Previous national winners, at any level, are ineligible. Former state winners are eligible to re-enter.
2. Format should be computer-generated, double-spaced, 12-point Times or similar (serif) type style, following standard manuscript format.
3. Submit electronically (see contact at end), as a Microsoft Word compatible document.
4. Write on designated subject only.
5. All factual statements must be referenced with bibliographical-style endnotes.
6. The essay must contain 750 to 1,000 words. This does not include the endnotes, the bibliography, references, or essayist’s biographical sketch (which should be on a separate page).
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. A brief biographical sketch of the essayist, including date of birth, gender, complete mailing address, and telephone number, must accompany the essay.
9. Individual essays for the State of California should be e-mailed to Dr. Eric Mussen, Entomology Department, University of California, in time to be received **on or before February 15, 2014**. The e-mail address is: [ecmussen@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ecmussen@ucdavis.edu).

All national entries become the property of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc., and may be published or used as the Foundation sees fit. National winning essays will be posted at: <http://honeybee preservation.org>.