



2021 4-H Beekeeping Essay Competition

State Level Sponsor: Louisiana Beekeepers Association

National Level Sponsor: Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees

Essay Topic:

Immunity: Threats to Bee Colonies and Methods to Defend Against the Threats

Honey bee colonies have developed many ways to stay healthy. Their immune responses range from behaviors such as grooming to using materials such as propolis, a plant-derived substance bees coat on the interior of a hive for antimicrobial purposes. Even the gut of the honey bee contains beneficial bacteria to help the bee stay healthy!

In your essay, **name at least two threats** (a parasite such as *Varroa*, a pathogen such as a virus, a predator such as a bear, etc.) to honey bee colonies and then discuss the methods colonies use to defend against the threats. If possible, include at least one picture you have taken from Feb. 2020-Feb. 2021 that illustrates how colonies manage to stay healthy against a variety of threats.

Eligibility

Open to all enrolled 4-H members in grades 4-12

Rules and Essay Requirements

- 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.
- 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.
- All factual statements and interview references must be cited in a "sources" or "bibliography" list.
- 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%.
- On a separate page, please include a brief biographical statement of the writer including mailing address, email address and phone number.

Awards

State Level – Cash and plaques to the top 3 winners

- 1st Place - **\$100**; 2nd Place - **\$75**; 3rd Place - **\$50**

National Level – Cash and plaque to the top 3 winners

- 1st Place - **\$750**; 2nd Place - **\$500**; 3rd Place - **\$250**

Deadline to submit your essay file (Word Document) is **Friday March 5, 2021 by 4:30 p.m.** to Mr. Xavier via email

XBell@agcenter.lsu.edu

