

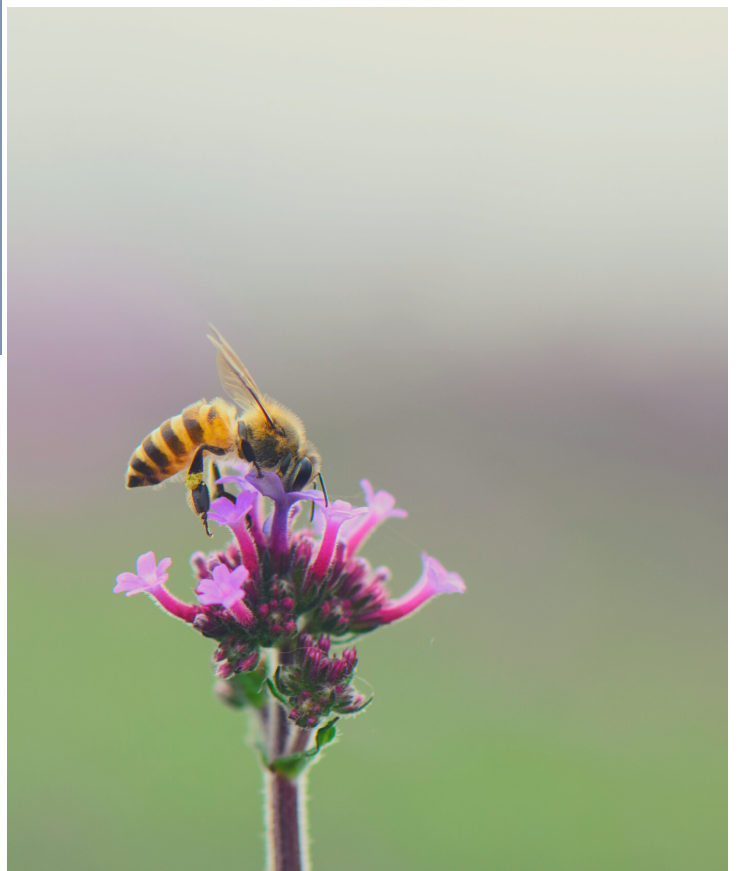
QUEEN PROGRAM



BUILDING A QUEEN PROGRAM



TEXAS
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION



PROGRAM HISTORY

The American Honey Queen Program is a local, state, and national program which annually selects young women to become a spokespeople for the beekeeping industry in the United States. This program is facilitated through the American Beekeeping Federation and involves a competition, the winner of which travels around the United States promoting the beekeeping industry and educating the public about bees and honey.

The Texas Honey Queen Program, run by Texas Beekeepers Association, is an opportunity to hone presentation skills and beekeeping knowledge and provides a pathway for qualification for the national program. Texas has had many American Honey Queens and Princesses go on to represent the beekeeping industry at a national level.

The Honey Queen and Honey Princess educate the public with facts about bees, beekeeping and honey. Covering topics such as pollination of our nation's crops and how dependent we are on the honey bee for agriculture, how honey is a healthier alternative for processed sugar and how honey also extends the shelf life of baked products and adds that extra special something like taste or texture. Many programs highlight cooking demonstrations using honey in their recipes which the public will find in the brochures they hand out at promotions in order to encourage the use of domestic honey.

Honey Queen Program participants attend events to promote the industry, create online content, and provide the public with insight into the world of professional beekeeping. The Honey Queen and Honey Princess also speak at seniors groups, retail stores, conventions for homemakers, FHA, FFA and the list goes on. They have also been known to help in beekeeping demonstrations at fairs by wearing bee beards and processing honey from comb to bottle.



QUALIFICATIONS

Most programs use the American Honey Queen Program rules as the basic format for guidelines, however, some qualifications and processes vary by state and local organizations. If your program participants plan to progress to the national level, they'll need to be aware of the national rules regardless of modifications made at the local and state level.

It is important for the program participants to have knowledge of bees and beekeeping - to start, they should be able to converse and discuss on the following topics:

- About beekeeping
 - Parts of the hive and their proper names
 - Three castes of bees – Queen, Drone, Worker – and their responsibilities
 - Floral sources of the area represented
 - Production of honey
 - Processing of honey
 - Seasonal management of colonies
 - Benefits of the honeybee to agriculture and natural resources through pollination
- About honey
 - Normal range of area honey's moisture content
 - Granulation – what causes it and what to do about it
 - Conversion of recipes from sugar to honey
 - Varieties of honey
 - Cooking hints
 - Other uses of honey
- About other marketable products of the hive
 - Pollen
 - Royal Jelly
 - Beeswax
 - Propolis
 - Pollination service
 - Bee venom



ADMINISTRATION

Building an effective Queen Program relies on a solid foundation of volunteers to help facilitate the program. This typically includes a Queen Chair as well as a committee of support (typically 2 or more additional people within the club that can help as needed)

A Honey Queen Chair responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Scheduling for the Honey Queen Program
- Prioritizing presentation opportunities
- Managing the program budget
- Seeking presentational opportunities with a large impact
- Organize Queen Program Committee meetings
- Organize annual candidate selection process
- Facilitate training for the selected candidate

Time spent on the program will depend on a number of factors such as the number of presentations given each year, how much digital content is created, and how active the program participants are in aiding with scheduling. These are important things to keep in mind when interviewing candidates.

It is helpful to map out the key events in your area ahead of time, make arrangements as early as possible, and keep a digital record that can be accessed by the chair, committee, and participants in order to make communication as simple and effective as possible.

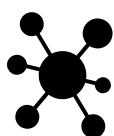
Get creative and don't be afraid to bring in new leaders or program participants with ideas that could move the program forward - at the end of the day, the bees are what motivates the program. If the idea benefits the honey bee industry, it's worth a shot!



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

We update our Queen Program rules, applications, and more resources on our website. If you're considering starting a Queen Program at your local club or you're interested in sponsoring a Queen Program candidate for our program, check out our resources.

You can find all the information needed for participating in the Texas Honey Queen Program at texasbeekeepers.org/honey-queen



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