

Apprentice Criteria

1. Must be at least the minimum age to belong to 4-H or FFA clubs and belong to such an organization, with parental consent and Involvement during the first year.
2. Members' children are not eligible.
3. There must be a SWMSBA member willing to mentor the apprentice.
4. Notice of the opportunity to compete for the position will be sent to all 4-H and FFA organizations, high schools and trade schools or colleges within the SWMSBA counties by August of each year.
5. Applicants must submit an essay of approximately 150 word on the importance of bees and/or beekeeping by October 1st.
6. Three entrants will be selected from all essays to interview at the clubs' October meeting.
7. One apprentice will be selected from the three interviewed.
8. The apprentice and parent(s), if the applicant cannot drive, will be required to attend monthly meetings and report on what they have done during the past month with their bees. (The SWMS mentor will verify the report.)
9. The apprentice will be provided with one complete hive and beekeeper clothing and equipment, on loan for 1 full year. After the successful completion of one full year, the equipment and bees MAY become the property of the recipient

Southwest Mississippi Beekeepers' Association (SWMSBA)