

Bee Advocate

The Bee Advocate is the program leader, the first in line for caring for the bees. Bee Advocate is a critical role serving as beekeeper, school leader, and liaison with neighbors, the Bee Mentor and Bee Cause. It is recommended that a teacher be the Bee Advocate. A pair of teachers can be successful as a team, supporting each other in this learning process too. The advocates may be novices. Each will share their knowledge with their peer groups as they learn.



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1) Identify a Bee Mentor

- You will need an experienced beekeeper to serve as your Bee Mentor.
- Mentors should be a member of the local beekeepers' association.
- A Mentor can help you select the best hive type for your school, find a location for the hive, source the honey bees and finally install them into the hive.
- Your Mentor will be your main contact for support in caring for the honey bees so they must be willing to make a long-term commitment.
- Your Mentor should help you with inspecting the hive on a regular basis but will expect you to take responsibility for your hive.
- The Bee Cause will assist the school in selecting/finding a Bee Mentor if needed.

2) Select Hive Type

Your school's location, type of school, type of programming and level of desired beekeeping involvement all play a role in deciding which type of hive is right for you. See Which Hive is Best for You for more information. We have several different hives from which to select:

- Indoor Observation Hive
**May also be installed outdoors with a structure covering the hive.*
- Traditional Top Bar or Langstroth Hive

3) Select Hive Location

Best Location for Indoor Observation Hive

- Consult with your Bee Mentor and School Officials.
- Hive entrance on the exterior wall should be facing south to southeast.
- A second story placement is ideal.
- Choose a classroom or space that is accessible to all for observation of the honey bees.
- Location needs to be a climate controlled area. Temperatures in the room should not reach extremes.
- Observation Hive case should not be in direct sunlight, as a greenhouse effect could occur. Ambient light is fine. Window blinds or shades are effective.
- If on first floor, the bee entrance should be in an inconspicuous place to avoid temptation for young, curious students to tamper with the bees and should not be on any pathway commonly traveled by students or adults.
- A location that is protected by a small fence or natural border is ideal, as long as direct sunlight can reach the entrance.
- Consider grass or foliage below the outside of the entrance to help camouflage the dead bees from curious children.

Best Location for Outdoor Observation Hive

- Consult with Bee Mentor and School Officials.
- A small shelter may be needed to protect the hive from wind and rain.
- Hive needs to be mounted at least a few feet above the ground.
- Hive should be in a somewhat remote area that

can be easily accessed by students.

- Hive should not be in a high traffic area for people or cars.

Best Location for Top Bar/Langstroth Hive

- Consult with Bee Mentor and School Officials.
- Hive should be in a somewhat remote area that can be easily accessed by students.
- Hive should not be in a high traffic area for people or cars.
- See Traditional Hive Guide for more information.

4) Install the Hive Base

Upon receiving the shipment with your hive and hive base, please do a thorough inspection to ensure that there are no broken or missing parts. This is very important before you install the base or the bees.

For Indoor Observation Hive

- Hive base installation should be completed by the school's maintenance staff or certified, independent contractor.
- See Installation of Hive Base Guide and supporting video for best results.

For Outdoor Observation Hive

- *Note: This option is a special order only. Please contact info@thebeecause.org to discuss details.*
- Hive base installation should be completed by the school's maintenance staff or certified, independent contractor.
- An outdoor structure will serve as protection for the hive and hive base.

For Traditional Top Bar or Langstroth Hive

- The Top Bar Hive comes with a hive stand to hold the hive several feet off the ground.
- The Langstroth Hive does not come with a hive stand, therefore, it is recommended that you stack several cinder blocks underneath the hive in order to keep it off the wet ground.
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5) Install the Honey bee Colony

For All Hives

- Schedule and oversee the installation of the honey bee colony with the Bee Mentor.
- See supporting videos on Bee Installation at www.thebeecause.org for best results.

6) Teach Hive Safety

- Create Hive Safety Rules and post Safety Rules.
- Follow the recommendations in these documents for greatest success in programming and safety.
- For reinforcement, have students make signs or posters with safety rules and tips.

7) Perform Daily and Weekly Hive Checks

- Review the Hive Checklist document.
- Establish a schedule/routine for hive checks and for communication with your Bee Mentor.
- Log observations and know when to call your Bee Mentor. Photographs of the hive can also help your Mentor determine what action to take and if a site visit is needed.

8) Oversee the Pay it Forward program

- All recipients of a Bee Cause hive grant are asked to host a fundraiser to pay it forward. For details and suggestions, see the Pay It Forward section.

9) Notify the Neighbors/Outside Contractors

- Notify surrounding neighbors that there is/will be a beehive at the school, and ask them to make their landscapers and exterminators aware so that the use of chemicals that are harmful to the bees may be kept at minimum if not completely stopped! This is the best insurance that your hive will survive and thrive!
- Make sure that any outside contractors are aware

of the hive location so that any painting, pressure washing, etc does not disturb the honey bees.

- Should significant renovations or construction be planned for your building, contact your Bee Mentor to discuss potential need to relocate hive during the process.

10) Incorporate Bee Friendly Initiatives

- Lobby and/or educate neighbors within a 3-mile radius to go pesticide free. This will help insure longevity of your colony.
- Have a "Name the Queen" contest.
- Start Bee Club or Adopt a Honey Bee Initiative.
- Adopt another Bee Cause school as a pen pal to share observations
- Celebrate Pollinator Month by planting bee friendly plants.
- Leverage "Pay it Forward" program as fundraiser.
- Track activity in beehive and compare by seasons.
- Encourage students to do a research project on honey bees.
- Create a Pollinator Habitat
- Restore a Pollinator Habitat
- Build a Bee Sanctuary
- Post Fun Bee Facts around campus
- Donate books to the library on Native and Wild Bees

11) Complete Annual Progress Report

A submitted Progress Report will be required within one year of your grant's award date.

12) Share Your Success

If permitted, share photographs and stories about your hive in your school publications and social media. Send photographs, news of special events and successes, and new ideas to The Bee Cause to promote your own program and to encourage others.