

Central Ohio Beekeepers Association (COBA)



Youth Beekeeping Scholarship 2026 Program

The Youth Scholarship program objectives:

To educate youth in the art of beekeeping and to promote a better understanding of the value of honeybees to our environment and to the food chain;

To provide an opportunity for youth to experience responsibility and enjoyment through beekeeping;

To provide an avenue for youth to engage in a vocation and gain the potential to pursue beekeeping as a sideline or fulltime vocation.

Eligibility Requirements

The applicant must be between the ages of 11 and 17 by the application deadline.

The applicant must be a resident of Central Ohio.

The applicant must be currently enrolled in public, private, or home school.

The applicant must have permission and agreement from parent or guardian.

The application must be submitted to COBA no later than December 31 2025

The Scholarship Award

Beginning Beekeeper School classes and textbook.

A set of woodenware for a beehive.

A package of bees and a mated queen.

Beekeeping gear including a jacket with veil, gloves, hive tool, varroa test kit, and bee smoker.

Mentoring by a COBA member for one year. Mentors will:

- 1) Help the Scholar install their bees, 2) check in at least monthly during the 15-month period, 3) inspect the hive with the student, as requested; 4) check that the Scholar is keeping records, photos, etc. of the hive; and 5) sign-off on the Scholar's record. Parent/Guardian must be present when the Mentor is working with the Scholar.

A two-year membership in the Central Ohio Beekeepers Association (COBA).

Participation Requirements for the fifteen-month commitment

- You and your parent/guardian must attend all four classes (8 hours total) of the assigned Bee School held in February. Class dates will be published on the COBA site
- You and your parent/guardian must attend the 1st year Bee Yard at OSU Waterman Farms that is held on Wednesday evenings from April through September. This is the hands-on part of learning about your bees. The recipient is expected to attend at least 75% of these sessions.
- Give 2 PowerPoint presentations to COBA: 1) in August focusing on your experience with your hives so far, and 2) In April – Your Complete Project and How your bees did through the fall and winter.

- Volunteer to help at the COBA booth at the Franklin County Fair in July.
- Volunteer to help at the Lithopolis Honey Fest in September.
- Volunteer at one other outreach event during the 16-month time frame.

- Attend at least 50% of the monthly COBA general meetings.
- Attend the COBA Pancake Breakfast in May. (no cost)
- Attend the COBA Picnic in June. (no cost)
- Attend the COBA Awards Banquet at Der Dutchman in November, at no cost to Scholars.

Application Process

Application is available on-line at:

<https://centralohiobeekeepers.org/programs>

Scroll down to Youth Scholarships. Download pdf application file.

Written applications must be received by December 31 2025. You can email your application or send it by USPS. All mailed applications must be postmarked by **December 31 2025**. All emailed applications must be received by **December 31 2025**

Applications will be reviewed by the Youth Scholarship Committee and Finalists will be selected.

The Scholarship Committee will conduct mandatory interviews with the Finalists and their parents/guardians on **January 21, 2026** during the General Meeting, at Franklin Park Conservatory.

The Scholarship Committee will make their decisions and winners of the Youth Scholarships will be contacted within a week after the interviews.