



Oregon Master Beekeeper Program

Journey Beekeeper Program Overview

The Journey Beekeeper is the second of three successive certification levels in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program. At this level of the program, the participant builds on the base of knowledge and experience acquired at the Apprentice Beekeeper level. The Journey Beekeeper gains and is able to demonstrate increasing skill and expertise with honey bees and colony management, expands knowledge and understanding of bees and their stewardship, and provides community service by sharing information about honey bees and beekeeping with the beekeeping community and the general public.

In modern apprenticeship systems, a journeyman is a man or woman who has a tradesman certificate that required completion of an apprenticeship. The definition of an individual considered to be at journeyman level is "...craftsman has met the requirements of time in the field and time in an approved classroom setting." The journeyman has the responsibility of supervising workers of lesser experience and training them in addition to having the qualifications (knowledge and skills) to work unsupervised him or herself. Finally a journeyman is commonly expected to have a wide range of experience, covering most fields of his trade.

The objectives for a person working toward certification at the Journey Beekeeper level reflect traditional work at the journey level, including

- experience and time spent in classroom and field settings
- ability to work independently
- broad knowledge of and work in the various areas involved in beekeeping
- time spent sharing knowledge and understanding with others

The training and experience provided at the Journey Beekeeper level are designed meet these objectives providing the participant with

- Increased knowledge of honey bee biology and practical beekeeping.
- The ability to manage a honey bee colony successfully over an extended period of time
- Knowledge of and ability to use various resources to keep up to date, gain information, and solve problems
- The ability to describe the pros and cons of a variety of conventional and alternative colony management practices
- Exposure to a wide range of education topics
- Knowledge of contemporary issues regarding honey bees and beekeeping
- Opportunities to share beekeeping knowledge and skills through service to beekeepers and the public

Participation Criteria

To enroll in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program at the Journey Beekeeper level, the participant needs to

- Be certified as an Apprentice Beekeeper in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program
- Submit a completed application form
- Pay a nonrefundable fee made payable to Oregon State University (OSU). The fee for the Journey program is \$150.
- Submit a completed and signed *Waiver and Assumption of Risks Agreement*
- Maintain a colony of bees under his/her personal supervision

Certification Requirements

To be certified as a Journey Beekeeper the participant must satisfy six (6) requirements. The time needed to complete the requirements will vary. Each participant comes to the program with different experience and time commitments. There is not a time limit to complete the six requirements.

1. Pass an open book written exam with a score of 90% or better.

The written exam is open book and not timed. The exam contains true/false, multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. There questions will total 100 points. The passing grade is 90 percent or better. Exam content is divided among three areas: biology, practical beekeeping, and contemporary Issues.

Several books are on the suggested reading list for the Journey program. While no single text book is the source for the exam questions, answers to questions related to honey bee biology and practical beekeeping primarily come from two texts.

- Caron, D.M. 2000 or 2013 edition. *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping*. Wicwas Press
- Sammataro, D., and A. Avitabile. 2011. *The Beekeeper's Handbook* (fourth edition). Comstock Publishing Associates

Questions about contemporary issues, by virtue of their immediacy, will not necessarily be found in the two texts. University, government sites, journals and newsletters, and organizations listed in the Selected Resources provide information sources for questions about contemporary issues.

2. Pass a practical exam (in-hive and lab) with a score of 80% or better for each section.

The 200-point practical exam consists of two sections: an open hive inspection using a Langstroth hive (100 points), and a lab examination including evaluation of jars of honey, and identification of pests, parasites, and pathogens and other causes of problems in a honey bee colony (100 points). The sections may be taken on separate occasions or together. A passing score is 80 points for each section. Dates and locations of the exams will be communicated as scheduled.

3. Engage in public service activities that earn 30 public service points and submit a worksheet detailing public service points earned.

Public service is a key element of the Journey Beekeeper level certification. During the Journey Beekeeper program, participants demonstrate their knowledge and skills by educating the general public as well as fellow beekeepers.

Public Service includes activities such as talking about bees in schools, collecting swarms, writing articles, and organizing or staffing booths at public events. Entering products of the hive in honey shows and judging a honey show are other examples of public service. Service to the beekeeping community is also a key part of this program. For instance, a participant may earn points by becoming active on the board of a local or state bee association, mentoring new beekeepers, or giving a talk at a local bee club.

4. Submit responses to 12 guided studies

The completion of 12 guided studies is another requirement for Journey Beekeeper level certification. The education topics are used as subject matter for the guided studies. The guided studies provide the participant with an opportunity to:

- Be introduced to the literature available on honey bees and beekeeping
- Increase confidence to research to find answers to questions independently
- Discern among sources of information in terms of quality and credibility
- Focus on information within a framework that can be used as a reference over time
- Respond with information on a specific topic in one's own words

Guided studies are done on a “completed/not completed” basis according to the criteria provided. In the event that a given study is noted as “not completed,” the committee will provide guidance for completion. Additional information on guided studies will be provided upon enrollment.

5. Own and maintain a colony of honey bees under personal management for 3 successive years.

The ability to successfully manage a colony over 3 successive years is another requirement for certification as a Journey Beekeeper. This means that the participant is responsible for his/her personal hive(s) continuously over this period of time. Ownership time accumulated during the Apprentice program can be counted toward meeting this requirement.

The committee recognizes that colonies are lost for many reasons and that there may be a hiatus in direct ownership (e.g., a colony dies at the end of winter or early spring and the participant has to wait until later in spring to purchase a package, nuc, or colony). A time lapse of personal management in this circumstance meets the requirement as long as the break in time is documented and appropriately managed. A break in personal management

that exceeds a reasonable amount of time between the loss of a colony and the time it takes start another would not meet this requirement.

6. Submit a log of colony management documenting continuous management activities for 3 successive years.

Participants are required to maintain a log that covers 36 consecutive months (3 years) for the colony of bees under their personal management. Each visit to the hive is documented. The documentation external conditions, visual inspections, manipulations and future action needed supports the on going success of hive(s) under the Journey's care. Hive maintenance documentation made during the Apprentice program can be counted toward meeting this requirement.

The participant selects the format for his/her log. Although there are numerous ways to document maintenance activities, the log needs to document specific information that includes but is not limited to the following:

- Date and time of day
- Weather conditions
- What is blooming in the vicinity of the hive
- Description of what is found: for example, brood pattern, bees bringing in pollen, and smell
- Notes of actions taken: for example, mite counts, medications given, and feeding (what and how)
- Notes about what needs to be checked, considered, or brought for the next visit
- Notes of anything unusual or unexpected: for example, too many drones, aggressive bees, and so forth
- Questions to consider, research or discuss with other beekeepers

For the technologically inclined, participants may keep a log online with Hive Tracks (www.hivetracks.com). Records from Hive Tracks may be printed out and submitted with other completed materials when applying for Journey Beekeeper certification.