

# *The Foundation for The Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.*

SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN BEEKEEPING FEDERATION, INC.

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## **2009 4-H ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT AND RULES** **Sponsored by The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.**

**AWARDS:** Cash Prizes to 3 Top Winners:  
•1st Place -- \$750.00 •2nd Place -- \$500.00 •3rd Place -- \$250.00  
Each State Winner, including the national winners, receives an appropriate book about honey bees, beekeeping, or honey.

**TOPIC:** For the 2009 essay contest, the essay topic is:

### ***“The Dance Language of Bees”***

Honey bees possess the ability to communicate the distance and direction of resources to their nest-mates. They employ a symbolic dance language in which the position of the sun is symbolically represented by gravity, and a trained observer can watch their dances and predict where they are foraging. The use of symbolic language by an insect has made them one of the most studied animals. This year's essay contest invites participants to learn about the honey bee's dance language, how it was discovered, how it works and how it provides colonies the ability to find and exploit floral resources.

**SOURCES:** Karl Von Frisch was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1973 for his work with insect communication. His classic text is *The Dance Language and Orientation of Bees*, (1967) Harvard University Press. There are dissenters to Von Frisch's findings. See "Anatomy of a Controversy: The Question of a 'Language' Among Bees" (1990) Columbia University Press. The results of scout bees leading nest-mates back to a new food source can be demonstrated easily by a beekeeper.

The scope of the research is an essential judging criterion, accounting for 40% of your score. The number of sources consulted, the authority of the sources, and the variety of the sources are all evaluated.

Personal interviews with beekeepers and others familiar with the subject are valued sources of information and should be documented. Sources, which are not cited in the endnotes, should be listed in a "Resources" or "Bibliography" list.

Note that "honey bee" is properly spelled as two words, even though many otherwise authoritative references spell it as one word.

-- *RULES on reverse*

## 2009 4-H ESSAY CONTEST

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- RULES:
1. Contest is open to active 4-H Club members only. 4-H'ers who have previously placed first, second, or third at the national level are not eligible; but other state winners are eligible to re-enter.
  2. Requirements (failure to meet any one requirement disqualifies the essay) -
    - Preparation for National Judging: Typewritten or computer-generated, double-spaced, 12-pt. Times or similar type style, on one side of white paper following standard manuscript format.
    - Write on the designated subject only.
    - All factual statements must be referenced with bibliographical-style endnotes.
    - A brief biographical sketch of the essayist, including date of birth, gender, complete mailing address, and telephone number, must accompany the essay.
    - Length – the essay proper: 750 to 1000 words.
    - The word count does not include the endnotes, the bibliography or references, nor the essayist's biographical sketch – which should be on a separate page.
  3. Essays will be judged on (a) scope of research - 40%; (b) accuracy - 30%; (c) creativity - 10%; (d) conciseness - 10%; and (e) logical development of the topic - 10%.
  4. **Individual essayists should not forward essays directly to the Foundation office.** Each state 4-H Office is responsible for selecting the state's winner and should set its deadline so state judging can be completed at the state level in time for the winning state essay to be mailed to the Foundation office before March 1, 2009. No essay received after March 1 will be considered.
  5. Each state may submit only one entry.
  6. Final judging and selection of the National Winner will be made by the Foundation's Essay Committee, whose decision is final.
  7. The National Winner will be announced by May 1, 2009.
  8. All National entries become the property of the Foundation and may be published or used as it sees fit. No essay will be returned.
  9. Mail the winning state entries to:

4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest  
Foundation for The Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1337, Jesup, GA 31598-1337  
(Street address: 115 Morning Glory Circle, Jesup, GA 31546)