N.C. Cooperative Extension
Chatham County Center
4-H Youth Development
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CHATHAM COUNTY YOUTH BEEKEEPING PROJECT

APPLICATION AND ESSAY CRITERIA – 2027 PROGRAM

Participant Name: _____ Age (as of Jan. 1, 2027): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____ Phone: _____

Emergency Contact Name/Phone: _____

- Are you currently enrolled as a Chatham County 4-H'er? ____ Yes ____ No

The applicant will be required to complete the following:

- An essay must be submitted with this application sheet for full consideration.
- Chatham youth between the ages of 13-18 are eligible to apply.
- The teen selected to participate in this program will have their registration fee to take part in the 2027 Chatham County Beekeeping School PAID FOR by the Chatham County Beekeepers Association (CCBA). This is an eight-week, in-person school offered at the Chatham County Ag Center. Classes are held on Mondays from 6:30-9:00pm from Jan. 4th through March 8th (no class on Jan. 18th in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday). For more information, see here: go.ncsu.edu/2027-bee-school
    - Teens will need to have reliable transportation to take part in the classes and will need to have an adult in attendance with them during all class sessions.
- In addition to attending the Beekeeping School this spring, the selected teen will be advised and mentored by a cohort of CCBA members at monthly work sessions at the CCCC – Pittsboro campus farm, either during the regular CCBA Field Days on the 3rd Saturday of each month from March through October or at other mutually agreed times or places.
    - Teens will need to have reliable transportation to take part in the mentor work sessions and will need to have an adult in attendance with them.

Upon successful completion of the beekeeping course, attending required mentor sessions, and passing the NC State Beekeepers Association Certified Beekeeper written and practical tests, the selected applicant will receive from CCBA one hive set-up with bees. The goal is to have these requirements met in order for the youth to receive the hive in the beginning of the spring 2028 beekeeping season.

Required Signatures

Applicant: _____ Parent/Guardian: _____

Application sheet and essay are due by November 30, 2026. Submit packet to ginger_cunningham@ncsu.edu. Winner will be announced by the CCBA.

2027 ESSAY CRITERIA

We're so excited you are interested in taking part in the Chatham County Beekeeping Project for 2027! This project, hosted and funded by the Chatham County Beekeepers' Association, is open to all Chatham County youth ages 13-18. To help the CCBA select a winner for the 2027 program year, please share your thoughts on beekeeping and why you are interested in becoming a beekeeper. **Make sure you attach your essay with the application sheet when you submit your completed packet to our office.**

Ages 13-15:

- Minimum requirements: Two paragraph essay. Make sure your first paragraph provides an introduction to you! Tell us about yourself and your interest in beekeeping. Your second paragraph should explain what you are expecting/hoping to learn if you are selected for this project and your expectations for how you will work with bees with your mentor. Please include evidence that you have researched your topic. *Maximum essay length for this age group is five paragraphs.*

Ages 16-18:

- Minimum requirements: Three paragraph essay. Please include an introduction paragraph that includes information about you and your desire to pursue beekeeping! Also include information to let us know if you have any previous experience with bees, explain what you are hoping/expecting to learn if you are selected for this project, how you will work with bees with your mentor, and what type of data you may collect while doing this project work. Please include evidence that you have researched your chosen topic(s). *Maximum essay length for this age group is seven paragraphs.*

The winner may be invited to read your essay at a future CCBA meeting or present to the Chatham County 4-H Advisory Council.

For more information, please reach out to:

- **Sharon McConnell**, CCBA Member and Project Liaison - SharonaLouMcc@gmail.com
- **Ginger Cunningham**, Chatham County Extension Director | 4-H Extension Agent – ginger_cunningham@ncsu.edu

Please make sure to submit your completed application to ginger_cunningham@ncsu.edu by November 30, 2026.

N.C. Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity provider.

Chatham County 4-H is a proud participating United Way agency.