

Education and  
Training

# Master Beekeepers

*Journeyman  
Level  
Program*



Washington  
State  
Beekeepers  
Association

7346 NE Crawford DR  
Kingston, WA 98346

Washington State Beekeepers Association

## Why Master Beekeepers?

- To increase the knowledge of beekeepers about honey bees,
- Develop a pool of people capable of dealing with the media and public on bees and beekeeping,
- To provide an objective system for an individual to evaluate and measure his own level of expertise, and
- To encourage membership in and support of local beekeeper associations.

For more information about Washington State Beekeepers Association, please visit our web site at:

[www.wasba.org](http://www.wasba.org)

For information about the Apiary Program at Washington State University's Department of Entomology, please visit the WSU web site at:

<http://apis.wsu.edu/index.html>

## Journeyman Level

The Journeyman Level Program is designed to build advanced skills in beekeeping and to facilitate the transition from hobby beekeeping to commercial beekeeping. Or, simply advance your knowledge about honey bees by participating in the Journeyman level education program. Many of the course lessons can be provided in conjunction with local or state beekeeper association meetings to enhance the learning opportunities of the student. In counties where active beekeeper associations do not exist a Master Beekeeper Committee member may travel to a specific location to present the material. Documentation of the examinations are noted on the participant's application and progress status form and records stored in a WSBA computer database.

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### QUESTIONS?

Call Master Beekeepers Committee representative Paul Lundy at 360-297-6743

## Expanded Learning

The Journeyman level requires the student to have more knowledge and skills in beekeeping. It also requires the applicant to be a member of a local and/or state beekeepers association. Knowledge of colony management, public relations, state and federal laws, honey judging, sanitation, economics, obtaining 30 public service points and a minimum of two years experience is required. Students are expected to acquire information from beekeeping books and journals and other sources. A series of exams are required covering each section of the course.

## Practical Testing

A practical field test has been developed and approved by the MBC. Journeyman and Master level students are expected to take the test. The following elements will be evaluated:

- General apiary appearance
- Hive appearance – organization
- General colony management
- Hive manipulation expertise
- Colony temperament
- Colony strength, adjusted for nuc vs. parent colony and time of year
- Apiary sanitation and cleanliness
- Medication program – preventative
- Knowledge of environmental factors
- Public relations awareness

## Active Participation

The public service points are a key element of the master beekeeper program. Points may be acquired by performing the following activities:

- A. Presentations on beekeeping and related topics to non-beekeeping groups.
- B. Programs on beekeeping and related topics to school groups.
- C. Presentation of WSBA or WA State approved programs to beekeeping groups.
- D. Publication of beekeeping and related topic articles in journals, newsletters, etc.

- E. Serving as an officer/director/trustee of a local beekeeping organization.
- F. Working at a beekeeping exhibit open to the public.
- G. Assisting 4-H or FFA members, and other youths with beekeeping projects.
- H. Serving as an officer/board member/regional representative of the WSBA.
- I. Programs/lectures/demonstrations on specific beekeeping topics to beekeeping groups.
- J. Judging honey and/or beekeeping products at fairs and other competitions.
- K. Conducting courses for advanced beekeepers.
- L. Provide one to one instruction to beginning beekeepers.
- M. Give courses to beginning beekeepers.
- N. Perform special programs, work, courses, exhibits, or other efforts approved by the WSBA MBC.

## Notes about Public Service

The following general rules apply:

- A maximum of 50% of accumulated units may be obtained in one category.
- 1 unit equals 1 hour, with a maximum of 3 units per presentation in categories A, B, C, I, K and M.
- 1 unit equals 2 hours with a maximum of 3 units per recipient in categories G and L.
- 5 units for an article published in a national magazine or publishing one state or local association newsletter. 2 units for an article published in a local or state newsletter as specified in category D.
- 15 units for serving as an elected officer for one year, and 5 units for serving as a trustee/-executive board member for one year as specified in categories E & H.
- 1 unit equals 2 hours in category F.
- 1 unit equals 1 hour in category J.
- A passing grade of 75 percent on examinations is required.