

Washington State Beekeepers Association

Master Beekeeper Education/Certification Program Information

Are you interested in becoming a beekeeper or have you been a beekeeper for years and would like to learn more and/or become certified?

Well here is the information you need to get started:

The WSBA Master Beekeeper Program has 3 levels of Education and Certification:

For each level, you must purchase (\$10) an official WSBA book. Before you begin the Apprentice level, you must register by filling out a "Progress Form". This "Progress Form" will go with you through each level of certification. "Progress Forms" can be obtained through your instructor at your local beekeeping association or on the website: www.wasba.org (Master Beekeeper link). You must have an instructor to sign-off on your "Progress Form".

1. The Apprentice Level
 - a. This level is open to new or old beekeepers of all ages
 - b. Usually you can take a beginning beekeeping from one of our local WSBA affiliated beekeeping associations nearest you. If you do not have a local beekeeping association close by, you can take the course via the internet. Go to www.wasba.org and see the Master Beekeeper link.
 - c. This level requires the answering of 10 Apprentice tests derived from the 10 lessons in the Apprentice Book and passing with a 75% or above. If you fail a test, all you have to do is repeat it until you pass. Your instructor will document your test scores and you will be issued an Apprentice Certificate. An official WSBA Apprentice iron-on Patch is also available for \$5.
2. The Journeyman Level
 - a. This level is open to all WSBA certified Apprentice Beekeepers. This level is also available online for those who do not have a local association nearby. You must purchase a Journeyman manual (\$10).
 - b. The requirements for this level are as follows:
 - i. You must have a total of 3 years experience as a beekeeper.
 - ii. You must pass 10 Journeyman tests (75% or better)
 - iii. You must accrue 30 Public Service Points (see website for details)
 - iv. You must mentor a new beekeeper
 - v. You must keep an informal journal
 - vi. And finally you must pass a field exam
 - c. Once you achieve all these, your instructor will document your "Progress Form" (the same form you used for your Apprentice documentation) and you will be issued a Journeyman Certificate. Again, an official WSBA Journeyman iron-on patch is available (\$5).
3. The Master Level
 - a. This level is open to all WSBA certified Journeyman Beekeeper. You must also be a member of the WSBA and purchase a Master Syllabus (\$10). This level is facilitated by the Master Beekeeper Committee of the WSBA.
 - b. The requirements for this level are shown in the Syllabus...2000 points needed:
 - i. You must write 4 research or literature search papers on a subject pertaining to bees or beekeeping....800 points/200 points each
 - ii. You must give one oral presentation to a group of beekeepers. This is a scored presentation....200 points
 - iii. You must accrue 1000 points in public service as shown in the Master Syllabus.
 - c. Once you achieve the requirements and have your "Progress Form" signed out and documented, you will be awarded a WSBA Master Beekeeper Certificate. An official WSBA Master iron-on patch is available (\$5).

If you have any questions concerning this program, please contact your local beekeeping association instructor for more details. If you don't know who your local instructor is or need further information, please contact Louis Matej at 253-921-5612 or email at: TacomaBeekeeper@wamail.net

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Chairman, WSBA MB Education/Certification Program