2023 Essay Topic: The Importance of Beeswax

Although honey bees are much-beloved for honey, bees also produce beeswax that can be used in many ways. For this essay, a 4-H student should discuss why beeswax is so important to the hive (it's a pantry, it's a nursery, it's the dance floor), but also discuss their favorite way to use beeswax outside the hive. Photos of candles, soaps, or lip balms that are made to show the 4-H'er's skill in using beeswax are welcomed as are recipes or brief instructions.

Essay Requirements for National Judging:

1. Essays must be typewritten or computer-generated on single-sided pages and formatted following standard manuscript format using double-spaced type and 12pt font in a legible font face.
2. Essays must encompass the designated topic in 750 to 1,000 words. Word count does not include sources, works cited, or the writer’s biographical statement.
3. All factual statements and interview references must be cited in a “sources” or “bibliography.”
4. 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%.
5. On a separate page, please include a brief biographical statement of the writer including mailing address, email address, and phone number.
6. Essay must be submitted online via 4HOnline by midnight Monday, April 3, 2023
AWARDS:
Awards will be provided to the top three winners from Texas 4-H:

Texas 4-H Contest Sponsors: A complete list of sponsors will be sent to participants for thank you purposes the week of April 24th.

TEXAS CONTEST RULES:
This contest is open to active 4-H Club members only. Previous Texas winners are eligible to enter the 2023 contest, if they have not placed first, second, or third at the national level in the past.

NATIONAL CONTEST INFORMATION: [http://preservationofhoneybees.org/essays](http://preservationofhoneybees.org/essays)
Final judging and selection of the National Winner will be made by the Foundation's Essay Committee, whose decision is final.

- Deadline by states for National Submission is **May 1, 2023**
- National Winners will be announced by the **week of June 15, 2023**.
- All National entries become the property of the Foundation and may be published or used as it sees fit. No essays will be returned.
- The three prize-winning essays will be published in ABF Quarterly, the magazine of the American Beekeeping Federation
- All authors of essays submitted to the national competition will receive a relevant book on honey bees, beekeeping, or honey.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three winners for National:
- 1st Place: $750.00
- 2nd Place: $500.00
- 3rd Place: $250.00

National Contest Sponsored by: The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.

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