

Public Service Hours

Public service is embedded in the Texas Master Beekeeping Program. We believe advancement is not simply about gaining knowledge; it is about applying that knowledge in service to others. Beekeepers in the program serve as ambassadors for honey bees and pollinators by modeling science-based practices, mentoring new beekeepers, delivering presentations, supporting community events, and engaging the public in meaningful conversations about pollinator health. This commitment to service has allowed the program to reach millions of Texans since its inception and increasing the appreciation for pollinators statewide.

As you progress through the Texas Master Beekeeping Program (TMBP), you will earn hours through Continuing Education (CE), Outreach, Education, and Service activities. These hours help you meet the requirements for each level. Here is an overview of how hours are tracked and how they differ at each level:

Requirements

Advanced Level

- **Total Required Hours:** 30
 - **Continuing Education (CE):** Minimum 10 hours
 - **Outreach, Education, & Service:** Minimum 20 hours

Master Level

- **Total Required Hours:** 50
 - **Continuing Education (CE):** Minimum 15 hours
 - **Outreach, Education, & Service:** Minimum 35 hours

Master Craftsman Beekeeper

- **Total Required Hours:** 75
 - **Continuing Education (CE):** Minimum 20 hours
 - **Outreach, Education, & Service:** Minimum 55 hours



Texas Master Beekeeper Shannon LaGrave presents on honey judging

Categories

As part of the Texas Master Beekeeping Program (TMBP), beekeepers can earn hours through Continuing Education (CE), Outreach, Education, and Service activities. Here's a brief overview of how hours are tracked:

Outreach, Education, & Service

Giving presentations, writing articles, recording videos, hosting workshops, and contributing to the beekeeping community all count toward Outreach, Education, and Service hours. These activities allow you to share your beekeeping knowledge with others. For outreach activities like presentations and demonstrations, preparation time is factored in as well. Service activities include volunteering at events, mentoring new beekeepers, assisting youth groups, participating in research, or helping with bee rescues. Service can also include advocacy work or contributing to pollinator projects. For Outreach, Education, and Service hours, you may receive free access to the event you are supporting; however, you should not receive any payment for the activity to be qualified to use towards your hours in the program.

Continuing Education (CE)

These activities help you learn and grow your beekeeping knowledge. Hours are based on the actual length of the session or event, such as attending workshops, webinars, or online courses, and reading approved beekeeping materials.

Tracking

The Texas Master Beekeeper Program Portal (<https://txmbp.org/>) is the platform for tracking and submitting public service hours. During the Apprentice and Advanced 10-week course, participants will receive access to the portal along with step-by-step training on how to properly document and submit their hours.

How Hours are Counted

Public service hours are based on the actual time spent involved in service activities. This includes mentoring, volunteering, and other contributions that support beekeepers and the beekeeping community. If there is any preparation or travel involved, that time can also be counted toward service hours.

For example:

- **Presentations & Workshops** – If you give a one-hour talk at a local club, you can count the presentation time (1 hour) plus preparation time (typically 30 minutes), totaling 1.5 hours.
- **Mentoring New Beekeepers** – If you spend two hours helping a beginner inspect their hive and answer questions, you can count those 2 hours.
- **Community Outreach Events** – If you volunteer at a beekeeping booth for four hours at a county fair, you count those 4 hours.
- **Social Media & Newsletter Contributions** – Writing an educational post or article that takes 30 minutes to research and write counts as 0.5 hours.

Travel Hours

If you travel outside of your home county for a volunteer activity, you may receive credit for 25% of your total round-trip travel time. When submitting your activity, enter your full round-trip drive time, and the portal will automatically calculate 25% of that time and add it to your volunteer hours. For example, if you drive 30 minutes each way (1 hour total travel time), the system will credit you for 15 minutes of travel time in addition to the time spent presenting.

Examples

These examples are provided as a guideline, but beekeepers are not limited to the activities listed below. If you are unsure whether a specific activity qualifies for public service hours, please reach out to the Texas Master Beekeeper Program (TMBP) for verification at TMBP@ag.tamu.edu.

Continuing Education (CE) Examples

Hours will be based on the actual length of the attended sessions, workshops, conference, or local club meetings. For example, a 2-hour workshop would count as 2 hours. For multi-day conferences, hours will be based on time spent attending sessions.

Here are examples:

- Attending a beekeeping workshop, bee school, or regional conference
- Watching an educational webinar
- Attending a state or national beekeeping conference
- Attending a local beekeeping club meeting
- Taking an online beekeeping course

Outreach & Education Examples

Hours will be based on the actual length of time spent preparing, traveling, and presenting educational or outreach programs. For example, if you give a one-hour talk at a local club, you can count the presentation time (1 hour) plus preparation time (typically 30 minutes). Travel time may also be accepted (See Above).

Here are examples:

- Giving a presentation to a beekeeping group
- Presenting a bee-related lecture or workshop to a non-beekeeping group (youth or adult)
- Writing a newsletter article (includes research/writing)
- Hosting a beekeeping workshop
- Recording and uploading an educational video
- Giving a public demonstration on a beekeeping topic at a fair, festival, or similar public event
- Teaching hands-on beekeeping skills