

NCBA
BEE SCHOOL
2026

Meet Your Mentor
With
Archie Acevedo



Mentor Guidelines

- **Program Goals**
- **Mentor Expectations**
- **Mentor Goals**
- **Review Mentoring Program Guidelines**

Mentor Guidelines



■ Program Goals

- Bee School provides a foundation
- Extension of bee school
- Refine good beekeeping habits
- Develop further beekeeping knowledge
- Successful and fun year

Mentor Guidelines



- **Expectations**

- Time availability
- Contact method
- What experience do I bring as a mentor



Mentor Guidelines



■ Mentor Goals

- What do I want to accomplish to help you become a better beekeeper?
- What will I learn about in beekeeping by being a mentor?
- Commitment through the year



Mentor Guidelines



■ Student Goals

- Expectations
- Feedback
- Commitment
- Notes



Mentor Guidelines



■ Equipment Reviews

- Does the student have the proper equipment for all seasons
- Is the student using equipment correctly
- Not necessarily what you've acquired for personal preference
- Reinforce when to add/remove the next hive body/super

Mentor Guidelines



■ Disease / Pests

- Mite Counts must be performed routinely
 - Demonstrate mite count
- Treatments – Accepted Methods
 - MAQS – treats under cappings
 - Others...
 - OA Vaporizer – Slotted board needed – No brood – did not discuss in bee school – too risky for 1st year students

Mentor Guidelines



■ Student Inspections

- “Home” hive dive for insight
- Record keeping
- General observation
- Know reason for particular inspection
- What are we looking for today



Mentor Guidelines



■ Student Inspections

- Queen identification
- Eggs/larvae
- Brood pattern/growth
- Food stores



Mentor Guidelines



■ Winter Prep

- Fall feeding
- Downsizing the hive (removing supers)
- Winterizing equipment
 - Mouse guard
 - Feeding shims
 - Moisture protection options
 - Wrap or not wrap - options



Mentor Guidelines



- **Reinforce confidence**

- Ask what/how questions, not why
- Mentee to talk through the process to explain details
- What am I doing today? What am I looking for?



Mentor Guidelines



- **Review mentor guidelines**
 - Make contact with students, introduce, offer assistance
 - Respect each other's time for visit
 - Student responsibility to contact you
 - Both to be present, mentor to educate



Mentor Guidelines



- **Review mentor guidelines**
 - Only use student's equipment, not yours, in their hive(s)
 - Never exchange or move equipment, frames, or bees to the students hive(s)
 - Bring nitrile gloves
 - **Stress IPM for mite control**
 - Preferred method to collect bees



Mentor Guidelines



- **Review mentor guidelines**
 - Encourage good beekeeping practices with equipment
 - May work with other students
 - If mentor is not a good fit, let us know



Mentor Guidelines

■ Sustainability - not for everyone

- Raise a nuc for the student
- If issues arise, be able to sustain the mentee hive
- Goes against mentor guidelines of sharing equipment
- Must be inspected/certified by state inspector
- Club will not be liable for nucs, disease spread

Mentor Guidelines

- **Tell me and I forget; Show me and I remember; Involve me and I understand**

- **Mentor takeaways for the new mentors**