

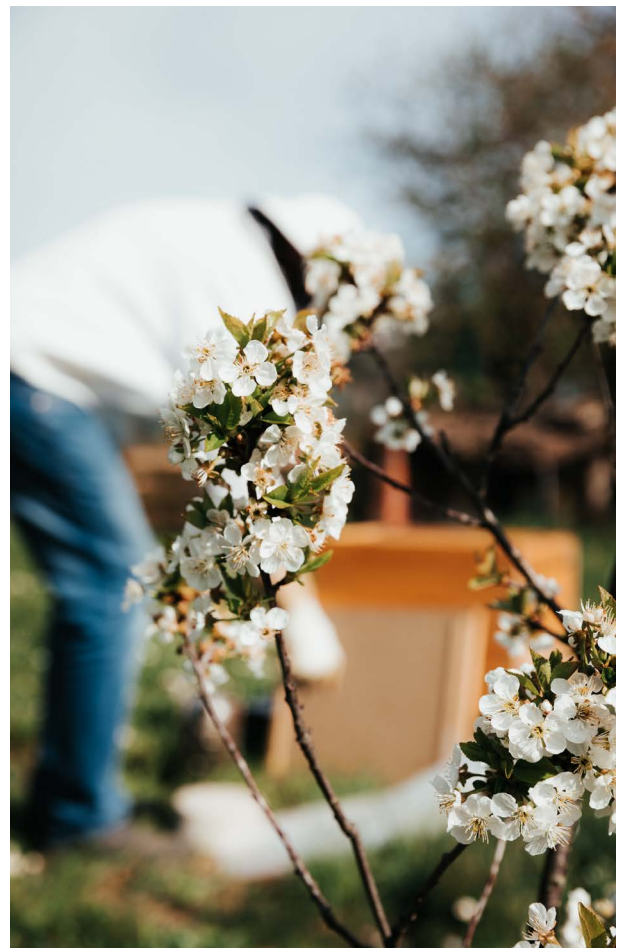
QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

BEEKEEPING

Many educational entities are interested in establishing beekeeping programs. Beekeeping can be beneficial and rewarding, but it's important to limit risks while creating a successful program. Consider these factors before starting a beekeeping operation:

- Do the city and county have any codes or permitting requirements related to beekeeping?
- Does the entity have enough space to place a hive on-site that is:
 - Away from regular use by students, staff and patrons?
 - Away from neighboring residential properties?
 - Amenable to the planting of a pollinator garden if needed?
- Does the program leader or teacher have experience in beekeeping, or do they have a mentor such as a certified master beekeeper? Is there an opportunity to contract with a professional beekeeper to help limit some of the risks associated with the activity?
- How will the program be funded? Some expenses to consider include purchasing hives, building a fenced enclosure around the hive(s) and developing food and water sources for the bees.
- Inquire and assess concerns from staff, students, parents and neighbors and ensure that amicable solutions can be attained.
- Assess the school's capacity to plan for and respond to allergic reactions to bee stings.

After looking into the factors outlined above, if the entity decides that the educational benefit outweighs the potential risks and plans to start a beekeeping program, PACE strongly recommends developing a beekeeping management plan. This plan should outline every aspect of the program.



QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE | BEEKEEPING

Your beekeeping management plan should, at a minimum, include:

- Designating the program manager.
- Stipulating that if the management plan is not followed, the program will be stopped and the hive(s) removed.
- Determining the design and location of beehive sites. This will need to be researched and thoughtfully planned as a considerable amount of risk exposure can be created by a poorly designed site plan. For example, the beehive should be in a fenced enclosure as this helps eliminate the attractive nuisance exposure.
- Specifying that the hive's queen should be selected from a lineage that is known for its gentleness, and have plans to requeen the hive if it becomes aggressive.
- Describing basic beekeeping care and its implementation.
- Creating a student code of conduct to set expectations for students working with bees.
- Developing curriculum, training and tests on safety related to beekeeping, use of smokers and personal protective equipment.
- Ensuring you have informed and written consent from the parents and/or guardians prior to allowing students to work with, or within close proximity of, the bees. This should include asking about allergies to bees and developing a written safety plan for those with such allergies.
- Establishing how you will communicate with staff, students, parents, patrons and neighbors about the presence of beehives on campus and whom they can contact to ask questions, report concerns or file a complaint.
- Determining what will happen to the honey harvested from the hive. If the honey is to be sold, this raises other risk concerns that need to be addressed. Contact PACE to discuss those concerns.



Below are several local resources to help develop beekeeping operations.

- [OSU Extension Master Beekeeper program](#)
- [Oregon State Beekeepers Association](#)
- [OSU's Honeybee Lab](#)
- [The Honeybee Conservancy](#)
- [Oregon Bee Project](#)
- [Oregon Department of Agriculture Bee Guide](#)

If you have any additional questions or need further assistance, please reach out to the Risk Management Department at 800-285-5461 or at riskmanagement@sdao.com.

PACE RISK MANAGEMENT

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