

‘BEE’ A SUCCESSFUL TOPS CHAPTER
INSTALLATION CEREMONY
by Janet Hamilton, TOPS # TX 429, Copperas Cove

Send out invitations on yellow cardstock. Punch 2 holes in top center of card- loop black ribbon through holes and tie in bow. Decorate card w/ bumblebee clip art or bee sticker.

Wording-

HAVE YOU HEARD THE BUZZ?

TOPS #XX 0000, XXXXXX’s new officers will ‘bee’ officially installed into office on date/time/place. Please ‘bee’ there.

Decorate the meeting place with yellow and black streamers, table cloths, etc.
Bumblebee cutouts/decorations can be purchased at educational supply stores.
Hobby/craft stores carry bee stickers

Make posters on yellow posterboard with the following phrases:

To ‘bee’ or not to ‘bee’, TOPS is the answer!

If it is to ‘bee’, it is up to me!

‘Bee’ the change you wish to see in the world

Don’t worry, ‘bee’ happy with TOPS

Gains sting, bee a winner with TOPS

Don’t get stung by bad choices- bee sensible

Bee Healthy

Bee Successful

Bee Positive

Bee Supportive

Bee Fit

Bee Thoughtful

Bee Inspired

BEE A KOPS!

Token gifts for incoming officers:

bumblebee sew-on or iron-on patches

bumblebee ‘warm fuzzies’ made out of yarn pom poms

Burt’s Bees health/beauty products, such as lip balm or lotion

For chapter members: safety pins embellished with yellow and black beads

It would be fun if incoming officers would all dress in black pants and yellow t-shirts. T-shirts can ‘bee’ striped with black electrical tape. Antennae can be made using plastic headbands and black pipe cleaners.

Folklore holds that the bee symbolizes service, and their movement from one plant to another symbolizes the interconnectedness of all living things.

Bees are social, and the health and success of the hive depends on the interaction of the bees, just as the health and success of our TOPS chapter depends on the interaction of our members. A solitary bee cannot thrive on it’s own. Many of us have discovered that we,

too, have difficulty reaching our goals alone, but with the help and encouragement of a supportive TOPS chapter, those goals are attainable.

The most successful hives consist mainly of worker bees- each with a special job. Isn't this also true for TOPS chapters? By sharing duties, we can accomplish far more than with only a handful sharing the workload.

The honeybees that we see flying around are the worker bees. Their tasks are to collect food, nurse young grubs, and so on. Some of the workers regularly ventilate the hive by fanning their wings at the entrances. This keeps the air inside cool and fresh. We need the same 'beehive of activity' within our chapter to keep things fresh.

In cold weather, the hive is warmed by the activities of the bees. A single insect does not produce much heat but, when many bees act together, they can keep their nest warm, even in the coldest winter. Such is the same within our chapter. When we are struggling and discouraged, just being surrounded by fellow TOPS members warms our hearts and encourages us to continue onward on our journey.

We've all witnessed honeybees flying from one flower to the next, collecting nectar, pollen, and even water from condensation or puddles, to be brought back to the hive and shared with other bees and stored within the honeycombs of the hive. The mutual exchange of food is a bond which holds the colony together. The 'nectar, pollen, and water' that our chapter members bring to one another??- That would be the informative programs, motivation, and never-ending support that we share.

Worker bees also collect gum or resin from the buds of various plants, especially trees. They use it as a kind of glue to fasten loose pieces of the honeycomb and to fill any cracks in the walls of the hive. Through TOPS Club, Inc. we have an international support system and guidelines that serve as the glue, and resources, such as The Choice is Mine and informational programs to help fill in any cracks.

Worker bees have glands that produce a scent when they are feeding on a rich source of food, and upon returning to the hive, a bee dances at the entrance, or on one of the honeycombs to let other bees know where to look for nectar. Although our means of communication differs from the language of the honeybees, we, too, share our successes in order to encourage others. Whether celebrating weekly roll calls, or accomplishments and honors on the area, state, and international levels, members can't help but be inspired and encouraged by the successes of other members.

If we've learned anything about the similarities between the honeybee colonies and our TOPS chapter, it is that the interaction, cooperation, and dedication of the 'worker bees' determines the success of an organization.

It is now time to install several essential worker bees as our new officers for [YEAR].

Will [incoming leader] please come forward. It is the leader bee's responsibility to serve as liaison with the Coordinator and Headquarters, and to keep the chapter informed of the latest buzz. It essential for you to work closely with fellow officer bees and hive members in order to maintain a supportive, fun, and active hive.

If you will accept the position of leader bee, please answer 'I WILL'.

Accept this [token] as a reminder of your duties to our TOPS hive.

Will [incoming co-leader] please come forward. It is the co-leader bee's responsibility to assist the leader bee in the execution of hive duties, and to preside at meetings in the absence of the leader bee. As co-leader bee, it is also your duty to fill in temporarily in the absence of any other officer bees.

If you will accept the position of co-leader bee, please answer 'I WILL'.

Accept this [token] as a reminder of your duties to our TOPS hive.

Will [incoming secretary] please come forward. It is the secretary bee's responsibility to record the minutes of regular and special hive meetings, to carry on any necessary correspondence, and to submit to the Coordinator bee, a copy of the duly adopted hive bylaws.

If you will accept the position of secretary bee, please answer 'I WILL'.

Accept this [token] as a reminder of your duties to our TOPS hive.

Will [incoming treasurer] please come forward. It is the responsibility of the treasurer bee to have charge of all receipts and disbursements, report at regular meetings on the financial status of our hive, and to promptly forward all memberships, award orders, and maintenance fees.

If you will accept the position of treasurer bee, please answer 'I WILL'.

Accept this [token] as a reminder of your duties to our TOPS hive.

Will [incoming weight recorder] please come forward. It is the responsibility of the weight recorder bee to study and follow all current rules that apply to weight records, and to record individual hive member weigh ins accurately on designated weight charts.

If you will accept the position of weight recorder bee, please answer 'I WILL'.

Accept this [token] as a reminder of your duties to our TOPS hive.

Will [incoming asst. weight recorder] please come forward. It is the responsibility of the assistant weight recorder bee to help the weight recorder bee carry out her duties to the hive.

If you will accept the position of assistant weight recorder bee, please answer 'I WILL'.

Accept this [token] as a reminder of your duties to our TOPS hive.

Will all of our hive members please stand.

The success and health of our hive depends on all of us. If you will pledge to interact with fellow hive members with encouragement, support, and a positive attitude, please answer 'I WILL'.

Please buzz around and join in welcoming our new officer bees.