

# HIVES FOR HEROES



Hives for Heroes® is a national non-profit service organization focusing on honey bee conservation and providing a healthy transition from service

## MISSION

"The National Beekeeping Network" provides connection, purpose, and healthy relationships, through access, resources, and funding for Military, Veterans, and First Responders.

At Hives for Heroes, our nations Heroes, mentors, and volunteers, work together to responsibly steward honey bees and support their local communities through service activities, apiary management, and offering locally produced honey. The relationships developed and the ability to serve others continuously provide Heroes with a purpose greater than self. The Network also facilitates the opportunity for all involved to provide value on a **hyper-local** level **throughout the nation** by serving as a conduit for conservation and environmental safeguarding.

Through "The National Beekeeping Network", Hives for Heroes provides connection, purpose, and healthy relationships, while fostering a lifelong commitment to sustainability through beekeeping. Founded and based in Houston, Texas, Hives for Heroes has operations across the United States. Hives for Heroes centers around one NewBEE, one Mentor, and one Hive. In the first year, "NewBEEs" follow their mentor's guidance and direction to learn the basics of apiary management. Throughout year two, NewBEEs continue their work alongside other beekeepers while growing their own bees and improving themselves and the community. In year three, NewBEEs, now experienced beekeepers, have the opportunity to lead "NewBEEs" as "Mentors".

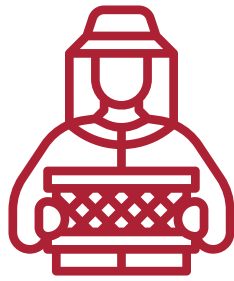
## *Why Beekeeping?*

After service, many Heroes struggle with their transition to civilian life often driven by a loss of purpose and direction resulting in depression, isolation, and addictive behaviors. Beekeeping is a unique hobby that aligns with the experience of military and first responder service and provides a path toward a healthier lifestyle. Like training or combat, beekeeping allows a Hero to suit up, experience healthy adrenaline, overcome fear, and accomplish a goal through process-oriented techniques, thus, finding success to walk away with confidence.





**1.55 BILLION**  
*BEES STEWARDED*  
 WITHIN THE  
*NETWORK*



**3400+ MEMBERS**  
*VETERANS AND MENTORS*  
 INVOLVED



**31,000+ HIVES**  
*IN THE HIVES FOR*  
*HEROES*  
 NETWORK



**100,000+**  
*ESTIMATED HOURS*  
 VOLUNTEERED BY MENTORS

Sustainable beekeeping practices are increasingly important, as native pollinators in the United States are experiencing severe population declines. The decrease in those populations negatively impacts air quality, natural water sources, and food security. Honey bees alone pollinate 80% of all flowering plants, including 130+ types of fruits and vegetables. Hives for Heroes is further committed to supporting the sustainability of honey bees through educational events, impactful relationships, and national influence as they work towards a greater mission.

**IMPACT**

**3,400+ Heroes and Mentors** involved in The National Beekeeping Network providing a combined **100,000+ mentorship hours**  
**30,000+ hives** in The Network as of March 2023  
**1.55+ billion honey bees** stewarded by The Network



**COLLABORATION**

Hives for Heroes collaborates with organizations such as: The George W. Bush Presidential Center, Texan By Nature, Texas A&M University, Texas Beekeeping Association, Winding Creek Apiary, Old Security Farms, The Bee Supply, US Military and Department of Defense installations, The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, and many others. Generous financial support has been provided by: Mitsubishi Electric American Foundation, TechnipFMC, ISS Global, Blue Ranch Farms, Kodiak Gas, Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co, and Ascend Performance Materials

**NEEDS**

Hives for Heroes and its collaborators work tirelessly to address the following needs:

- Experienced beekeepers** to join the Hives for Heroes network as a mentor, sharing their unique knowledge of apiary management
- Funding** to continue providing participating Military Members, Veterans and First Responders, with the highest quality beekeeping platform, resources, and facilitation
- Collaboration** with individuals, businesses, and organizations that further the mission



Make an impact today  
 #beeahero