

## Da' Buzz on Beekeeping

By Xela Wright (14)12-15 age group

It all started when my Grandma sent one of *those* E-mails. You know what kind... HOME-REMEDIES, but this E-mail was different, among the mustard pastes and apple-cider vinegar cure-alls, things I found a "penny" cure for bee stings. It went a lot like this, "First get that stinger out, and then put a penny on top of it, nobody knows why it works, but 10 to 20 minutes on that sting and all it leaves is a tiny, painless spot." Soon afterward I took a trip to Lagoon. Lo and behold I was stung. As soon as that pain began I dug a penny out. When I finally took it off, there was no pain, not even soreness when I poked it. Now if that worked I could keep bees...sting free!

This started my quest to bee-brilliance. First I went to a 4-H beekeeping class last January. It really opened my eyes to the amount of work that goes into a hive... both by the beekeeper and the bees. From that class and a video from the library about the lives of bees, I learned the importance of bee box placement. After all, bees start work when the sun warms the hive. Then I found out about the Utah Beekeeping Association, I was now hooked, there was so much I could do to help and protect a hive! Finally I went and talked to a neighbor who is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation beekeeper and he showed me that it is actually a rare thing to get stung. He stuck his hand right next to the entrance and let the bees crawl over it. That's when I got the entry form....

I am ecstatic about having bees. I hope to learn it is true that bee honey is colorful in the spring, because they would collect such a variety of nectars and pollens in my area. I want to know if the garden will "bee" more fruitful with a hive nearby. I will be watching for signs of swarming and use preventative measures such as getting