



Connecting People,
Pollinators and Places

Bee City School Application Form

_____Oakridge Junior Public School_____

(Name of School)

_____ONTARIO_____

(Province/Territory)

A) School Information:

School: Oakridge Jr. P. S.

Address: 110 Bynq Avenue

City: Scarborough

Province/Territory: Ontario

Postal Code: M1L 3P1 Phone: 416-396-6505

B) Applicant Information:

Name: Shamira Mohamed/Sakina Saherwala Position: ESL Teacher/Kindergarten

Teacher

Email: Shamira.mohamed@tdsb.on.ca / sakina.saherwala@tdsb.on.ca

Phone: 416-396-6505

C) Becoming a Bee City School

Briefly summarize why your school should become a Bee City School (add/remove lines as needed).

Our school council team is currently working towards creating a Butterflyway Oakridge JPS. This is part of the Butterflyway Project - a David Suzuki Foundation initiative to help people create viable pollinator habitats in neighbourhoods across Canada. Being a Bee City School would complement this initiative and provide opportunities to educate the school and community about the importance of bees and pollinator plants and their protection by

- Involving students to create an outdoor learning environment to boost stronger connection to nature (i.e., plant bee-friendly flowers around the school, especially the Kindergarten yard; upgrade our current school garden to a pollinator garden; create opportunities for cross-curricular activities).
- Creating awareness of bees as pollinators (e.g., bee awareness campaign).
- Engaging the community (e.g., invite parents to plant flowers to attract pollinators in their backyards and balconies).

D) Commitments and Actions

In order to enhance the understanding of the students and staff about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, the applicant agrees to meet the following commitments required of all Bee City Schools:

1. **Adopt this Bee City Canada Resolution. (see Section F)**
2. **Create a Bee City Pollinator Team.** The team which will be responsible for the Bee City program at your school. We recommend a committee of at least two teachers/instructors and two students as well as parent(s) and caretaking staff if possible. Expand table to add more rows, as needed.

Name	Role	Email address
Shirley Hu	Teacher	
Ana Lakhani	Teacher	
Shamira Mohamed	Teacher	
Zehra Mohamed	Teacher	
Sakina Saherwala	Teacher	
Farwa	Student	
Aban	Student	
Ridwan	Student	
Soha	Student	
Mahzabin	Student	
Amreen	Student	
Manha	Student	
Hesda	Student	
Avigail	Student	
Harram	Student	
Hassaan	Student	
Muhammad	Student	
Samira	Student	
Tahrira	Student	
Farwa	Student	
Zahra	Student	
Fareeha	Student	
Genevieve	Student	
Unaiza	Student	
Koel	Student	
Dana Snell	Parent	

3. **Develop a Pollinator Habitat Action Plan:** Outline any initiatives which aim to improve, maintain or create new habitat for pollinators. Examples could include planting a locally native pollinator garden at your school or in the local community. Describe your plans for habitat and include a plant list.

- We have an existing courtyard garden at Oakridge called the Star Garden. We would like to have an area dedicated to growing some native plants that can be found in pollinator habitats (e.g., black-eyed susan, marjoram, chive, crocus, lilac, foxgloves, bee balm, to name a few).
- Students will learn the importance of pollinators and their role in pollinating certain plants.
- We are planning to begin a compost bin to provide soil for plants.
- We are planning to involve our Kindergarten classes to plant bee-friendly flowers along the fence in their play area.
- We plan to collaborate with Access Point, Cliffcrest Butterflyway, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and other community partners to conduct workshops for parents and students to create balcony gardens.
- With the support of school council, we plan to start *Gardens in the Community* initiatives that involve parents.
- The Student Ambassadors leading this initiative plan on working with the school council team, Eco Club and the Star Garden committee.

4. **Promote Education about Pollinators:** Outline any initiatives aimed at educating students, staff, volunteers, parents and/or the local community about pollinators.

We plan to educate our students and parents on the importance of pollinators and the impact they have on our ecosystem and life. This would be done through

- School Wide Campaign – engaging students and parents
- Read Alouds – Mentor Texts
- Create iMovie - Bee Awareness Campaign (Bees are in trouble)
- Assemblies – Kick Off Campaign (Where are the Bees?), Celebration (how we have helped)
- Community Partners (Gardening Workshops)
- Wear Yellow and Black Spirit Day
- Celebrate National Pollinator Week – June 20-26th

5. **Celebrate Pollinators:** Tell us about how your school will celebrate National Pollinator Week and/or participate in other pollinator-themed events.

National Pollinator Week -- June 20th – 26th

1. Wear Black and Yellow Spirit Day
2. iMovie – Importance of Bees (created by students)
3. Assembly - Celebrating Bee Certification
4. Publish our *Save the Bee* Website

E) Other Requirements

1. Publicly acknowledge receiving your Bee City School designation through your website, social media and by displaying Bee City Canada signage in a prominent location.
2. Annually apply to renew your Bee City School designation. A renewal application will be sent to you.

F) Resolution and Signature

WHEREAS the goal of Bee City Canada is to promote healthy, biodiverse habitats in communities across Canada.

THAT bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to habitat loss, use of pesticides, industrialized agriculture, climate change and the spread of pests and diseases, with serious implications for the future health of plants, reptiles, birds, insects, mammals and humans; and

THAT schools have the opportunity to take actions to support pollinators by creating healthy habitats within their grounds and the broader community; and


THAT supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness, increases interactions and engagement in the school and reminds of our responsibilities to take care of mother earth for future generations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT Oakridge Junior Public School accepts the designation and commits to the 3 pillars of the Bee City Canada Program; creating healthy biodiverse pollinator habitat, educating whenever possible and celebrating.

Approved and adopted this

10 day of March, 2023.

Signature of Principal/Official: 

Please print Principal/Official's name: Samanthan Gillan

Submitted by:  Date: March 10, 2023

G) Requested Attachments

With your completed application, please provide:

1. Your school logo (in png format) and usage guidelines.
2. A short 50-100 word write-up of why it's important to become a Bee City School.
Include photos if possible and ensure there is parental permission. This will help us share the exciting news through our social media outlets.

Oakridge Junior Public School is excited to join the Bee City School project because pollinators are in trouble, and we all have a part to play in helping them. Oakridge Pollinator Protectors are a committed group of students, teachers and parents who want to do everything we can to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and create a network of habitats to sustain them. Bees give us so much - let's give them something back (and learn and have fun while doing it)!

Send your completed application to: applications@beecitycanada.org.