

# 14<sup>th</sup> Honeybee Illustration Contest Instructions

Organized by Yamada Bee Company

Co-organized by Asahi Gakusei Shimbun Company

The contest will be sponsored by the Honeybee Science Research Center (Tamagawa University), the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), the Japanese Board on Books for Young People (JBBY), and the Japan Team of Young Human Power (JHP).

## Purpose

At Yamada Bee Company, we appreciate all things related to bees – they are highly social creatures with deep connections. We believe that everyone can learn from honeybees through their way of life. We would like to think together with people not only in Japan but around the world about the importance of “Nature,” “Supporting each other,” and “Life,” while focusing on the SDGs, our shared goal to make the world a better place. These are our hopes and the reasons why we hold this contest.

## Illustration theme

Any theme is welcome as long as it relates to honeybees. Use your imagination and think about how important and wonderful honeybees are to nature. Let your ideas flow onto paper. Some past examples are “Flowers and Honeybees,” “Honeybees in Nature,” and “Humans and Honeybees.”

## Entry period

The application period is scheduled to run from April 2026 until September 17, 2026 (tentative; all entries must be received by this date).

## Categories and Awards

*\* As of September 17, 2026*

Award Categories	Age	Number of Winners	Prize
Grand Prize	18 and over	1	A certificate and honeybee products
	17 and under	2	
Excellence Award	18 and over	1	
	17 and under	2	
Special Commendation	18 and over	2	
	17 and under	4	
Honorable Mention	18 and over	3	
	17 and under	10	

Each participant will receive a participation award in appreciation of their efforts.

## Illustration Size

Please use A3-sized paper (approximately 30 cm × 40 cm or 11.7 in × 16.5 in).

The thickness of the artwork should not exceed 10 mm. Framed works will not be accepted.

## How to Submit (Subject to Change)

We are preparing to accept submissions both by postal mail (original artwork) and online upload (digital photographs of the artwork). Note: To best convey texture, color, and detail, we strongly recommend sending the original artwork. **Full details will be posted on the following website:** [https://survey.3838.com/form/pub/yamada/2026\\_ichimaiga](https://survey.3838.com/form/pub/yamada/2026_ichimaiga)

### 1. Postal Submission

Fill out the entry form.

Attach the form to the back of the illustration.

Send the artwork to the designated address (to be announced later).

### 2. Online Submission (Coming Soon)

We are currently developing a system to upload photographs of hand-drawn works.

Detailed instructions and the upload link **will be posted at the link below as soon as they are ready:** [https://survey.3838.com/form/pub/yamada/2026\\_ichimaiga](https://survey.3838.com/form/pub/yamada/2026_ichimaiga)

### Important: Submission Rules and Originality

To ensure the authenticity of the contest, please strictly adhere to the following rules:

- Hand-drawn only: All submissions must be original analog illustrations (e.g., watercolor, oil paint, crayons, pencil).
- No digital tools: Works created using digital software (Photoshop, Procreate, Illustrator, etc.) are not eligible.
- No AI-generated content: The use of generative AI at any stage of the creation process is strictly prohibited.
- Original artwork only: Even if submitted online, the work must be an analog creation. Please keep the original artwork in a safe place, as it may be required for final judging or physical exhibition.

## Regulations

- All works must be original, unpublished, and created by the applicant.
- Illustrations will not be returned.
- Changes to submitted works are not allowed.
- Digital or AI-generated works are not accepted. Only paintings or drawings created by the applicant are eligible.
- Award selection will be confidential and conducted at the judges' discretion.
- Submitting the same or very similar works to other contests is not permitted.
- Uploading the illustration to other websites without written permission from the organizers (Yamada Bee Company and Asahi Gakusei Shimbun) is prohibited.
- The organizers are not responsible for loss or damage during shipping.
- All copyrights and usage rights of the illustrations belong to the organizers.

- Illustrations may be used by the organizers for promotional, packaging, or publication purposes.
- Works that infringe on the legitimate rights of third parties are not eligible. Yamada Bee Company will not be responsible if the applicant is held liable for copyright or other rights violations; it is the applicant's responsibility to resolve such issues.
- All rules, implementation, and review are governed by Japanese law.

## **Judges**

Chair: Masami Sasaki (Professor Emeritus, Tamagawa University)

Mitsuhiko Imamori (Photographer)

Masako Yuuki (Art Director)

Kaoru Beppu (Digital Editor-in-Chief, Asahi Gakusei Shimbun)

Hideo Yamada (President & CEO, Yamada Bee Company)

## **Results**

Results are expected to be announced in November or December 2026 on the contest website: <https://www.3838.com/ichimaiga>