

Article XVI - Privacy Policy

Section 1. Introduction The Pierce County Beekeepers Association (“PCBA,” “we,” “us,” or “our”) is committed to protecting your privacy and personal information. This Privacy Policy explains how we collect, use, share, and protect information when you interact with our organization, website, events, and services.

Section 2. Information We Collect

Section 2.1 Personal Information

We may collect the following types of personal information:

Contact Information: Name, email address, phone number, mailing address

Membership Information: Membership status, dues payment history, beekeeping experience level.

Event Information: Event registrations, workshop attendance, volunteer participation.

Communication Preferences: Newsletter subscriptions, text message opt-ins, communication preferences

Beekeeping Information: Number of hives, location of apiaries (general area only), years of experience.

Payment Information: Credit card details for dues and event payments (processed through secure third-party payment processors)

Section 2.2 Automatically Collected Information

When you visit our website or digital platforms, we may automatically collect:

Technical Information: IP address, browser type, device information, operating system.

Usage Information: Pages visited, time spent on site, referring websites - Cookies and

Similar Technologies: Information stored through cookies, web beacons, and similar technologies

Section 3. How We Use Your Information

We use your personal information for the following purposes:

Membership Management: Processing membership applications, renewals, and maintaining member records.

Communication: Sending newsletters, meeting announcements, educational materials, and association updates

Event Management: Processing event registrations, sending event information, and managing attendance

Educational Services: Providing beekeeping education, resources, and mentorship programs

Administrative Purposes: Managing our organization, processing payments, and maintaining

records.

Legal Compliance: Complying with applicable laws and regulations

Section 4. Information Sharing and Disclosure

Section 4.1 We Do Not Sell Personal Information

PCBA does not sell, rent, or trade your personal information to third parties for commercial purposes.

Section 4.2 Limited Sharing

We may share your information in the following limited circumstances:

Service Providers: With trusted third-party service providers who assist us with website hosting, payment processing, email services, and event management

Legal Requirements: When required by law, court order, or government request

Safety and Protection: To protect the rights, property, or safety of PCBA, our members, or others

Business Transfers: In connection with a merger, acquisition, or transfer of assets (member consent would be obtained)

Section 4.3 Member Directory

With your explicit consent, we may include basic contact information (name, email, general location) in a member directory shared only with other PCBA members for networking and mutual support purposes.

Section 5. Text Messaging Terms and Conditions

Section 5.1 Opt-In Required

By providing your mobile phone number and opting in to receive text messages from PCBA, you consent to receive informational and promotional text messages.

Section 5.2 Message Types

Text messages may include:

- Meeting reminders and announcements
- Event notifications and updates
- Emergency beekeeping alerts (swarms, disease outbreaks)
- Educational tips and seasonal reminders
- Membership renewal notices

Section 5.3 Message Frequency

Message frequency varies. You may receive up to 4 messages per month, with additional messages during peak beekeeping seasons or emergency situations.

Section 5.4 Standard Rates Apply

Message and data rates may apply. Check with your mobile carrier for details about your messaging plan.

Section 5.5 Opt-Out Instructions

You may opt out of text messages at any time by: - Replying “STOP” to any text message - Contacting us at [email address] - Updating your preferences in your member profile

Section 5.6 Help and Support For help or support regarding text messages, reply “HELP” to any message or contact us at [email address].

Section 6. Data Security

We implement appropriate technical and organizational security measures to protect your personal information against unauthorized access, alteration, disclosure, or destruction. These measures include:

Secure data transmission using encryption

Regular security assessments and updates

Limited access to personal information on a need-to-know basis

Secure storage of physical and electronic records

Section 7. Data Retention

We retain your personal information only as long as necessary to fulfill the purposes outlined in this policy, comply with legal obligations, resolve disputes, and enforce our agreements. Membership information is typically retained for [specify period, e.g., 7 years] after membership termination.

Section 8. Your Rights and Choices

You have the following rights regarding your personal information:

Access: Request access to the personal information we hold about you

Correction: Request correction of inaccurate or incomplete information

Deletion: Request deletion of your personal information (subject to legal and legitimate business requirements)

Opt-Out: Unsubscribe from communications or opt out of text messages

Data Portability: Request a copy of your personal information in a portable format To exercise these rights, contact us at [email address].

Section 9. Children’s Privacy

PCBA does not knowingly collect personal information from children under 13 years of age. If we become aware that we have collected personal information from a child under 13, we will

take steps to delete such information promptly.

Section 10. Third-Party Links

Our website may contain links to third-party websites. This Privacy Policy does not apply to those websites. We encourage you to review the privacy policies of any third-party websites you visit.

Section 11. Changes to This Privacy Policy

We may update this Privacy Policy by Board Member vote in order to stay up to date with ever changing guidelines. These changes do not require a vote by membership. Once voted on by the board, these changes will be effective immediately. When we make changes, we will:

Post the updated policy on our website

Update the “Last Updated” date

Notify members of significant changes via email or other appropriate means

Section 12. Contact Information

If you have questions, concerns, or requests regarding this Privacy Policy or our privacy practices, please contact us:

Pierce County Beekeepers Association

Email: webmaster@pcbeekeepers.org

Phone: 253-319-0327

Section 13. State-Specific Rights of Washington State Residents

If you are a Washington State resident, you may have additional rights under the Washington My Health My Data Act and other state privacy laws. Please contact us for more information about these rights.