



MONARCH JOINT VENTURE

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MJV Partners

U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey
National Park Service
Natural Resources
Conservation Service
Iowa Department of
Natural Resources
Cibolo Nature Center
Green Schools Alliance
Journey North
Monarch Alert
Monarch Butterfly Fund
Monarch Health
Monarch Lab
Monarch Watch
North American Butterfly
Association
Pheasants Forever and
Quail Forever
Pollinator Partnership
Southwest Monarch Study
Tallgrass Prairie Center
Wild Ones: Native Plants,
Natural Landscapes
Xerces Society for
Invertebrate Conservation

MJV Mission

Recognizing that North American monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) conservation is a responsibility of Mexico, Canada and the US, as identified in the North American Monarch Conservation Plan, this Joint Venture will work throughout the US to conserve and protect monarch populations and their migratory phenomena by implementing science-based habitat conservation and restoration measures in collaboration with multiple stakeholders.

This goal will be achieved through a combination of habitat conservation, enhancement and restoration; education; research and monitoring.

Dear Students,

The problem that I present to you today requires caring, creative thinkers to solve it. **As young scientists, you have the ability to think about the problem, share solutions, and put them into action to help save the magnificent monarch butterfly.**

The number of monarchs has decreased a lot. For many of us, this is very sad. Like me, I'm guessing that you feel a strong connection to these amazing insects.

How did this become a problem? People are using more and more of the earth to grow food; build homes, roads, and shopping centers; and produce energy. Land used for all of these things is using land that used to be good monarch habitat. Changes in weed control methods used on farm fields have also made monarch habitat unusable because these weed killers also kill the monarch's favorite plant, milkweed.

To help monarchs, we need to be creative and look at areas where we can add conservation practices into land we use daily. Areas that you visit often include your backyard, your schoolyard, or local parks. These areas can be important habitat for monarchs.

The good news is that many people are motivated to help monarchs, and monarchs can live in small pieces of good habitat. You can help, right in your own schoolyard and your own backyard. If you can make some space for monarchs, your backyard habitat can act as a bridge to other habitats, creating a habitat corridor or traveling path. Neighbor after neighbor, planting milkweed and linking nature preserves and neighborhood parks, can help to create habitat pathways that can help all pollinators.

Important habitat restoration can begin in your own yard. **In a single year, a lawn can be changed to a habitat that is similar to the prairie or other native habitat that was here before all of our homes, shopping centers, and farm fields. A backyard with native plants provides food and shelter for dozens of species of the birds and insects that used to live here, including monarchs, if we plant milkweed.**

You, as our nation's young scientists and environmentalists, can help more monarchs live by putting your creativity and knowledge to work. Ask yourself what you can do to improve your schoolyard and your yard at home to help provide much-needed habitat for monarch butterflies. Then ask yourself how you can spread that impact outward to your friends, neighbors, local community, and beyond.

As co-chair of the Monarch Joint Venture, a national conservation program working to conserve the monarch migration, I look to you as future conservationists to help us by creating habitat, helping us learn more about monarchs, and telling other people what you've learned. **With help from students like you, the future of the magnificent monarch butterfly and its amazing migration can be saved for future generations.**

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen S. Oberhauser
Professor, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota
Co-Chair of the Monarch Joint Venture Steering Committee and Director of UMN Monarch Lab