

INTRODUCTION: Troop 89 is proud to share our Save the Monarchs patch program. We are passionate about sharing our responsibility to protect our world. Learning about monarch butterflies is only the beginning. Monarchs are a butterfly that we see a lot in our area of Southwest Florida. They are one of the most well-known butterflies in the United States and were recently put on the endangered species list. The use of harmful pesticides in farming, destruction of their natural habitat, and climate change have caused these beautiful butterflies to be endangered. Monarch butterflies will only lay their eggs on milkweed. Because people mistake milkweed for being an actual weed, milkweed is destroyed, eliminating the possibility for monarchs to lay eggs, which reduces the monarch population further.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES: In completing this program, girls will increase understanding, respect, and appreciation of monarch butterflies in our world so that future generations can enjoy their beauty.

TO EARN THE PATCH: This program is designed for Girl Scout Daisy's through Ambassadors, and can only be earned once. Each Girl Scout level has a recommended number of requirements in the DISCOVER section below:



Scan to
order
patch



DISCOVER:

Daisy's and Brownies: (Complete 3 of 5)

- Learn about monarch butterfly anatomy.
- Learn about the steps of the monarch life cycle, known as metamorphosis, and understand why milkweed plays a critical role.
- Learn about the monarch migration.
- Read a book about monarch butterflies.
- Explore your backyard and take a picture of a monarch butterfly.

Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors: (Complete 3 of 6)

- Learn two other names for the monarch butterfly.
- Explore your backyard and take a picture of a monarch butterfly.
- Learn about the why the monarchs are endangered and what you can do to help.
- Understand why milkweed is important to the monarch butterfly. Educate two people about how the use of harmful pesticides can cause harm to monarch butterflies.
- Learn about monarch butterfly migration pattern.
- Read a book about monarch butterflies.

* Recommended reading: *The Adventures of Johnny Butterflyseed*, by Tarisa Parrish

* Facts learned from Johnny Butterflyseed:

- You can become a butterfly farmer by planting milkweed and raising butterflies from the eggs they lay on milkweed.
- Milkweed is the monarch butterfly host plant- the only plant monarch caterpillars will eat and will lay their eggs on.

- You must also plant nectar plants to attract the monarch butterflies and keep them in your garden with the milkweed.
- More and more buildings are being built where milkweed once grew. More people are using chemicals in their yards, gardens, and fields that kill weeds. This is affecting the monarch butterfly population causing them to be on the endangered species list.
- We need more butterfly farmers, like you!

CONNECT:

- With your troop, make a monarch butterfly craft.
- Visit a local botanical garden or park where there is a butterfly garden.
- Watch the Disney Nature movie, Wings of Life, and share what you learned with your troop.
- Read Johnny Butterflyseed and share Johnny's message with your friends and family.

TAKE ACTION:

- With your troop, plant milkweed for your own backyard.
- With your troop, start a butterfly garden and plant milkweed at your school.
- Donate milkweed seeds or plants to your local butterfly garden or local park.
- Lend a hand weeding and cleaning up your local butterfly garden or local park.
- Educate others about why monarch butterflies are on the endangered species list and what we can do together to save these beautiful pollinators.