

## BUTTERFLIES AT IVY CREEK

*Created for use by the Ivy Creek Foundation*

You can find lots of butterflies in the Ivy Creek Natural Area. The best place to see them is in the Pollinator Garden where they flit from flower to flower.

Butterflies start their lives as eggs, usually attached to plant leaves. When the egg hatches, a caterpillar comes out and eats the leaf! After eating more leaves, it becomes a fat caterpillar and wants to make itself a little home called a cocoon or chrysalis. In this cocoon it works on becoming a butterfly. When it breaks out of its cocoon, it is a beautiful butterfly!



Photo by Bob Gore



Monarch Butterfly chrysalis

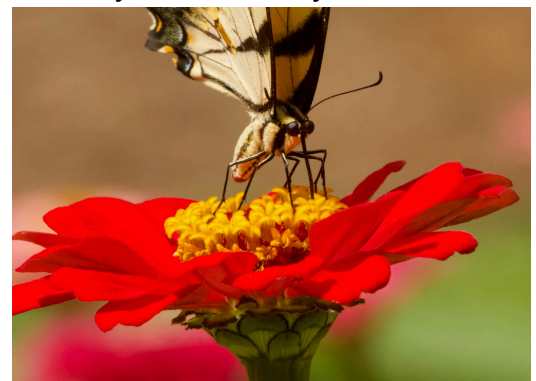


Besides bringing us the joy of beauty, butterflies help to pollinate flowers and trees. This allows the flowers and trees to make more flowers and trees. Butterflies are also prey, or food, for other insects, birds, and other animals.

There are tiny butterflies and butterflies bigger than your hand. They come in many colors. But they all have these things in common:

- 4 wings, two in front and two in back
- 6 legs, like all insects
- 2 antennae, used for touch and smell
- 3 body parts: head, abdomen, and thorax
- 1 proboscis (like a tongue) which uncurls to suck nectar

Enjoy watching butterflies but don't catch them.  
We all want to enjoy them!



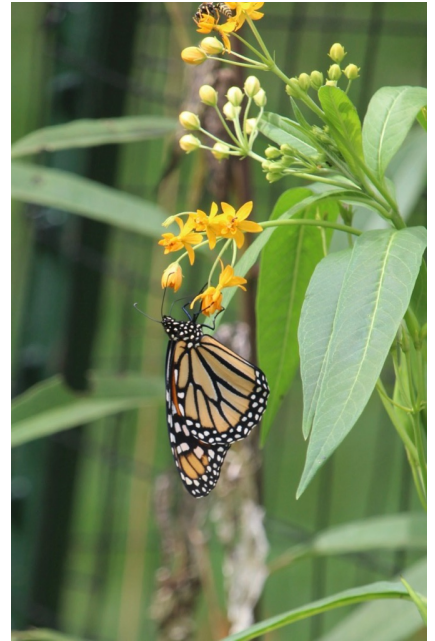
## BUTTERFLY ACTIVITIES

Walk through the Pollinator Garden. There are usually lots of butterflies on the native plants and flowers there. You might also see eggs and caterpillars. Look for leaves with holes in them. That means something is eating them. Could it be caterpillars?

Take a hike on the field trail. (F or purple trail). You are more likely to see butterflies on this trail because there are wildflowers and berries, which will attract them.

Pretend to be a butterfly! Spread your wings (arms) and flutter to flowers and smell them. But check for bees and butterflies before you stick your nose in a flower!

When you get home, draw two connecting triangles. Add two antenna and a proboscis. Then color them any color you want.



## BOOKS YOU MIGHT ENJOY

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle.

- The best picture book on caterpillars and butterflies for preschoolers

The Family Butterfly Book by Rick Mikula

- Filled with project and activities for families

The Butterfly Book by Donald and Lillian Stokes

- Contains beautiful pictures for identifying butterflies