



Project SOAR Mission

- To encourage Scouts of all ages to participate in community conservation projects.
- Encourage partnership within the community to construct meaningful, long-lasting, and visual projects.
- Encourage Scouts to learn about the endangered species.
- Encourage Scouts to earn the World Conservation Award.
- Encourage Scouts to earn the William T. Hornaday Award.
- Encourage Scouts to choose a conservation project for their Eagle Scout project.
- Encourage Scouts to earn the SOAR patch.

The Monarch butterfly is one of the most recognizable species of wildlife in all of America. They undertake one of the world's most remarkable and fascinating migrations, traveling thousands of miles over many generations from Mexico, across the United States, to Canada. North American Monarch butterflies are in trouble. Loss of milkweed habitat needed to lay their eggs and for their caterpillars to eat, are having a devastating impact on their populations. Unless we act now to help the Monarch, it could disappear in our lifetime. Monarch declines are due to environmental problems that also pose risks to food production, and our own health. Conserving and connecting habitat for monarchs will benefit many plants and animals, including insect and avian pollinators, and future generations of Americans. **We can save the Monarch.** *Excerpt from [tp://www.fws.gov/savethemonarch/](http://www.fws.gov/savethemonarch/)*

Prevent Monarch Extinction

SOAR Patch Award

In order for Scouts and adult leaders to earn each year's SOAR patch, they must do a minimum of three (3) hours of conservation, environmental, or beautification service work. It will first be available for the Prevent Monarch Extinction campaign projects. There are many projects Scouts can do to help prevent extinction of the Monarch Butterfly, or as it's known by its scientific name: *Danaus plexippus*. See our website and resources on the reverse side for a list of possible projects. In its inaugural year, the SOAR program has dedicated effort and resources towards saving the Monarch butterfly. Each following year, SOAR will focus on a different resource to save and protect – such as bees. Each patch will be unique.

The cost of the patches are \$3.00 each and can be purchased at the Durham Scout Center during normal business hours or by calling 402-431-9272.

Do 1 project. Earn 3 awards.

William T. Hornaday Award

Scouts earn three of these merit badges: Energy, Environmental Science, Fish and Wildlife Management, Forestry, Public Health, or Soil and Water Conservation. Earn two of these merit badges: Bird Study, Fishing, Fly-Fishing, Gardening, Geology, Insect Study, Landscape Architecture, Mammal Study, Nature, Nuclear Science, Oceanography, Plant Science, Pulp and Paper, Reptile and Amphibian Study, or Weather. Then plan, lead, and carry out a project in natural resource conservation.



Eagle Scout Award



To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a Scout must earn 21 merit badges, progress through the ranks of the Boy Scout program, serve six months in a leadership position, and plan, develop, and give leadership to a service project for any religious organization or any school or community. To qualify towards the William T. Hornaday Award and the

SOAR Patch Award, the Eagle Scout Project must be conservation oriented and benefit a religious organization, school or community organization.

Ideas for Conservation or Community Projects

Every backyard can become an oasis for monarchs and other pollinators—even in cities. Schools, youth and community groups, businesses, and state and local governments can engage in planting native milkweed and protecting monarch habitat along roadsides, rights of way, and other public and private lands. Excerpt from www.fws.gov/savethemonarch.



Feed them.

Plant milkweed along a creek, river, or wooded area such as the Loess Hills, DeSoto Bend or other public park lands.

Hold a field day planting milkweed and other plants Monarchs need to lay their eggs on and for caterpillars to eat.

Protect them.

Complete projects as suggested by park superintendents pertaining to protecting Monarchs. Clean up a park. Preserve or develop wildlife nesting and resting areas for Monarchs. Plant living snow fences. Put in dams across trails to keep from washing. Plant trees, butterfly bushes and milkweed at lakes and parks for state and cities.

Partner with the Boy Scouts of America, Mid-America Council Conservation Committee, Omaha Audubon Society, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Nebraska Wildlife Federation, and Iowa Department of Natural Resources to plan and promote a project idea of your own. There are many ways to help save the Monarchs.



Resources

Mid-America Council Conservation Committee
www.mac-bsa.org/camp_conservation.aspx

www.audubon-omaha.org
www.nwf.org
www.monarch-butterfly.com
www.saveourmonarchs.org
<http://monarchwatch.org>
<http://www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov>

Contact Information

Save Our American Resources (SOAR)

Mid-America Council Conservation Committee
Durham Scout Center
12401 W. Center Road
Omaha, NE 68164
402-431-9272, mac@scouting.org



SOAR



Save Our American Resources
Help prevent the extinction of
Monarch Butterflies

Plus, earn your
SOAR Patch Award
William T. Hornaday Award
Eagle Scout Rank Award

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
Mid-America Council