

# Butterfly Garden (K-12)

## Science, Language Arts, and Mathematics

**Summary:** Students research Florida butterflies and native host and nectar plants that attract them, and create an educational butterfly garden at their school

### Service and Learning Activities

**Preparation:** Students take a field trip to a butterfly conservatory or butterfly garden. They then research native Florida butterflies and create descriptions for each one that includes a photo, description, types of host and nectar plants, and information on the Florida habitat and region where it lives. They research the native Florida host and nectar plants and determine which to use in their garden to attract butterflies. Students make a list of the needed plants, fertilizers, loam, mulch, hoses, tools and other materials needed for the butterfly garden. Invite a master gardener as a guest speaker to discuss gardening, soil preparation, planting tips and how to maintain the garden. They sponsor a school-wide fundraiser to cover the cost of materials; ask local nurseries for donations; and ask community members to donate materials and cuttings from butterfly plants. Students prepare flyers and letters for the drive. Students make a graph of the plot and decide where the plants will go. They prepare plant identification labels for the garden.

**Action:** Students prepare the plot for planting, plant the flowers and plants and label each plant. Students prepare educational guides for the garden visitors that detail the Florida butterflies and native host and nectar plant. Students create Florida butterfly coloring books for elementary school students who are invited to tour the garden. Students design invitations for the garden dedication ceremony and invite partners, parents, and community members. After garden is established, students give tours and lessons on the topic to younger peers.

**Reflection:** Students create a scrapbook that details the project. Use photos from a digital camera. Students maintain a journal and write entries from the preparation stage to the maintenance stage. How could this project be improved? What are some next steps? What were the greatest challenges in doing this project? What impact(s) did the project have on those serving and served?

**Demonstration:** Students invite local media to attend the garden dedication. Students take elementary school students on tours of the garden. Students can also create and present poems, public service announcements, songs, artwork, lessons, videos, skits, displays, or murals to teach other students or the larger community about the project, the need(s) it addresses, and the impact of their efforts.

### Standards

**Language Arts:** The student

- LA.A.1.3 Uses the reading process effectively.
- LA.A.2.3 Constructs meaning from a wide range of texts.
- LA.B.1.3 Uses writing processes effectively.
- LA.B.2.3 Writes to communicate ideas and information effectively.
- LA.C.1.3 Uses listening strategies effectively.
- LA.C.2.3 Uses speaking strategies effectively.
- LA.D.1.3 Understands the nature of language.
- LA.D.2.3 Understands the power of language.

**Mathematics:** The student

- MA.B.1.3 Measures quantities in the real world and uses the measure to solve problems.

**Science:** The student

- SC.G.1.3 Understands the competitive, interdependent, cyclic nature of living things in the environment.

**Visual Arts:** The student

- VA.A.1.3 Understands and applies media, techniques and processes.

### Academic Objectives

- Learn the native host and nectar plants that attract Florida butterflies
- Learn how to prepare and plant a butterfly garden
- Use research, reading, writing, visual arts skills, and computer technology to create educational guides and coloring books for targeted audiences that explain the butterfly garden
- Use Mathematics skills to create a budget, and measure and plot out a garden

**Assessment(s):** Graph of the garden plot, invitations, journals; and descriptions and text for guides, flyers, and coloring books

### Service Objectives

- Create a butterfly garden that will educate the school body and community on native Florida butterflies and the host and nectar plants that attract them

**Assessment(s):** Garden dedication ceremony, written and verbal response from visitors; use by native butterflies for food and egg-laying; work in creating and maintaining the garden for the school and community