

South Carolina Coastal Monarch Study

A Citizen Science Research Project



Monarch butterfly populations are decreasing, with record low winter counts for Mexico in 2014. Many of the monarchs migrate from Mexico to the upper Midwest and southern Canada during the summer and then back to Mexico in the fall. But on the East coast, things are different. Monarchs migrating along the East coast in fall typically do not go to Mexico. Some over-winter along the immediate coast of South Carolina. Scientists want to find out more about this winter range along the Lowcountry coast and need your help!

The SC Department of Natural Resources (SC DNR) is seeking volunteers who live in coastal South Carolina to help tag monarchs this winter and spring. If you're interested, here is some important information about the tagging program:

- ◆ Tagging will occur from approximately mid-to-late November through mid-April.
- ◆ Tagging does not occur on set dates, but when weather conditions are suitable for monarchs to be out and about. Therefore, it is important that you have some flexibility in your schedule.
- ◆ Participation may be by individuals or teams.
- ◆ Volunteers will be required to attend training in late October. Dates are still to be determined, but SC DNR will hold trainings in three different coastal locations.
- ◆ SC DNR will provide a net and tags to each individual or team (i.e. one set of supplies for a team to share).
- ◆ Catching monarchs is harder than it looks! You will need to be capable of physical activity outdoors in sometimes rough terrain.



Want to participate?

Apply by Sept 30th as
an individual or a team.

Depending on the number of interested
participants and funding available, space
may be limited!

Questions? Contact Lauton Sutley
(volunteer coordinator) at
SutleyL@dnr.sc.gov or 843-953-9354