

# Help Missouri's Butterflies! Join the Missouri Butterfly Monitoring Network!

The **Missouri Butterfly Monitoring Network** is seeking new volunteers to collect information on the biodiversity and abundance of Missouri's native butterflies!

After completing online training courses, our citizen scientist volunteers select a natural habitat area to monitor the abundance and diversity of butterflies present there. Monitors visit the site and record butterfly observations at least six times during the summer observation season (June-August). Data is uploaded to PollardBase, the home of the North American Butterfly Monitoring Network, where it is pooled with data from other North American butterfly monitoring programs, and shared with scientists studying butterfly populations and conservation around the world.

No prior knowledge or experience is needed! Participants will watch online training videos that outline program rules and requirements and explain how to recognize and identify the 25 most frequently encountered butterfly species in Missouri. Then volunteers meet remotely with program staff to finalize their involvement and officially select a location to monitor.

**Want to participate? Follow these links to get started!**

[Interested in participating? Fill out our interest survey here](#) or scan the QR code:



[Visit our YouTube channel to view our training videos here](#) or scan the QR code:



The Missouri Butterfly Monitoring Network is a citizen science program run by staff at the Butterfly House, a division of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Butterfly monitoring volunteers receive credit for their hours as Missouri Botanical Garden volunteers.

Frequently Asked Questions:

**Q. Who can participate?**

A. Anyone 18 and older is welcome to participate

**Q. Can you help me find a location to monitor?**

A. We encourage volunteers to choose their own location, but MBMN staff can assist with choosing a site. All sites need to be approved by MBMN staff or representatives appointed by them.

**Q. Can I monitor butterflies at my house or in my backyard?**

A. No. Monitored locations should be public lands with natural habitats such as prairies, woodlands, or wetlands. Areas like backyards, and places with predominately landscaped habitat or turfgrass are not ideal monitoring locations.

**Q. Are you looking for rare species?**

A. Not necessarily. Our goal is to create a database of butterfly populations across the state, and evaluate how they change over time. All species, including those that are rare and those that are abundant, are important to monitor.

**Q. Is there more complete information available about the program?**

A. [Yes. View our program manual here](#), or scan the QR code:



**Q. I'm not interested but I know people who might be. Can I share this flyer?**

A. Absolutely! Please share with any interested individuals or groups in Missouri.

**Q. I found out about this program late, can I still join?**

A. Yes! Though ideally monitors start in June, you can begin monitoring later in the season if you can still get 6 sessions in before the end of August.

**Q. Who can I contact if I have questions?**

A. Email MBMN Director Tad Yankoski with any questions at [tyankoski@mobot.org](mailto:tyankoski@mobot.org)



**The North American Butterfly Monitoring Network**  
*working together to advance knowledge on butterflies*