

IBSN Butterfly Monitor

Description:

The Iowa Butterfly Survey Network is a program that was started by Reiman Gardens at Iowa State University. The Iowa Butterfly Survey Network (IBSN) is a state-wide project conducted by citizen scientists to monitor butterfly populations, as they are important indicators to environmental health. The Volunteer Butterfly Monitor gathers data on butterfly populations on designated public and private properties. This is a fieldwork position and requires walking over uneven terrain during summer weather. Monitors will be trained in butterfly identification and IBSN protocols. Work includes mapping a survey route, monitoring the route a minimum of 6 times during the season and entering data in the on-line database. The Volunteer Butterfly Monitor may encounter others during the course of their activities and should be prepared to answer questions about butterflies and the survey.



Service Responsibilities:

- Survey assigned route a minimum of 6 times between June 1 and August 8 (4 times before July 20), recording data on supplied sheets or using the UBR app. Monitoring protocols must be followed and data must be recorded accurately and completely.
- Be familiar with the beginner's list of species: These 25 species are the most commonly encountered and/or the easiest to identify. Experienced monitors are expected to learn the intermediate and advanced butterflies.
- Fill out site and route run data sheets and map route, if needed. Work with the regional hub leader or IBSN Coordinator for this.
- Report any problems to the coordinators of IBSN or the regional hub leader.
- Represent IBSN or regional hub to others encountered during monitoring. Be prepared to answer questions about butterflies and monitoring practices.
- Enter butterfly survey data in the on-line database and record volunteer hours after each survey run.

Qualifications:

- No previous experience is required. Monitors must attend training session(s) and complete the IBSN volunteer packet or packet of regional hub
- Able to hike on designated route during spring and summer weather for up to 2 hours
- Competent in oral and written communication
- Able to take initiative
- Work individually and as a team member
- Commitment to the IBSN program