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All a-flutter over the monarch butterfly: Annual festival is Sept. 11 at Lake Nokomis



A celebration of Minnesota's state butterfly, the monarch, will flutter to Lake Nokomis on Saturday, Sept. 11, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The second annual event celebrates the monarch butterfly's amazing 2,300-mile migration from Minnesota to Mexico. It also raises awareness of the need to provide and protect monarch habitat through art, music, dance, games, native plants, prairie tours of the Nokomis Naturescape Garden and food.

A 5K Run for the Monarch begins at 9 a.m. Proceeds benefit monarch butterfly habitat in Minneapolis parks and the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere in the state of Michoacan, Mexico. Prizes will be awarded for the first three runners across the finish line.

The Kids Butterfly Fun Run at 10 a.m. features prizes for the first across the finish line, best monarch wings, best antennae and best caterpillar look. Children who want a costume for the fun run and festival can attend a wing-making workshop at Lake Nokomis Community Center on Friday evening, Sept. 10. Kids join local artists and puppeteers to create their own monarch wearable wings. Supplies and know-how are provided. Kids should wear clothes that can get paint, glue or glitter on them. For time and more details, visit the Nokomis Community Center page at www.minneapolisparcs.org after Aug. 16.

For fees and to register for the 5K or kids fun run, visit www.monarchfestival.org or www.active.com.

Festival Highlights

Participants can look for monarch eggs and get an up-close look at live monarch caterpillars and butterflies. Tagged monarch butterflies will be released at various times throughout the Festival. Participants will learn about the life cycle of the monarch butterfly from [Monarchs in the Classroom](#).

Staff from [Landscape Alternatives](#) and [Outback Nursery](#) will teach participants how to attract monarch butterflies to your yard. Each nursery will also have native plants for sale that attract monarchs.

The Minnesota/Mexico connection is highlighted with music and dance. Free stage performances include Ketzal Coatlicue Aztec Dance, Tropical Zone Orchestra, Papa John Kolstad, Los Alegres Bailadores, Tonia Hughes Band, La Estrella Mariachi, and Larry Long with Billy & Ricky Peterson, Fiddlin' Pete, Joe Savage and Friends.

The festival is a multicultural event with Latino radio personality Angel Maldonado and American Folk singer Larry Long as masters of ceremonies. There will also be an Anishinabe Medewin Water Ceremony along the lake shore. Details about all of the bands can be found on www.monarchfestival.org.

Wait, There's More!

Other activities include designing monarch mandalas with Richard Bonk, Art in the Park presented by the Minneapolis Institute of Art, and making milkweed seed mudballs to grow a monarch butterfly habitat at home, migration games, and monarch lotteria (Mexican bingo with a monarch focus).

[Jimmy Longoria](#) from Mentoring Peace Through Art will work with families to create tethered, silk monarch butterfly kites. Local food vendors will feature great Mexican and American food.

Bring a blanket to the park on Friday, Sept. 10, for one last movie under the stars. Watch *The Incredible Journey of the Monarchs*. Inspired by Sue Halpern's book, *Four Wings and a Prayer*, the filmmaker followed the butterflies in hot air balloons and high tech gliders, interviewing researchers and ordinary citizens in Canada, the USA, and Mexico to tell the story of these unusual butterflies and the unique phenomenon of their migration. The free movie begins at 8 p.m.

The festival is produced by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB), Nokomis East Neighborhood Association and Community Celebration of Place

Major support is provided by the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), Radio Disney AM 1440, and the Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB). The MPRB is a fiscal year 2010 recipient of a Festival Support grant from the MSAB. This activity is funded, in part, by the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on Nov. 4, 2008.

Presenting Partners are Life Science Foundation, Monarchs in the Classroom, Radio REY, and the Mexican Consulate

For more information, visit www.monarchfestival.org, or contact MaryLynn Pulscher at 612-313-7784 mpulscher@minneapolisparcs.org, or Rita Ulrich, 612-724-5652 rulrich@nokomiseast.org.

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