

Schaumburg Urban Monarch Technician – Summer 2018

In partnership with Field Museum and Barrington Area Conservation Trust



Ecological Fieldwork Technician

Over the last two decades, the monarch population has decreased by 80 percent and experts now agree that a key threat to the species is the loss of milkweed plants across the Midwestern United States. This summer the Field Museum's Monarch Project will expand on its existing research with the help of volunteers from Schaumburg. The volunteer ecological technician will collect one season of local field data using an established protocol.

This position will implement intensive monitoring of monarch butterfly habitat at selected sites throughout Schaumburg. This individual will be trained by staff from the Field Museum in ecological sampling methodology and monarch biological monitoring protocol in order to collect information at sites on a variety of habitat characteristics, including but not limited to: milkweed density and abundance, floristic diversity and distribution, and total habitat acreage.

Duties may include, but are not limited to:

- Collects and organizes biological field data using standardized collection procedures and equipment. Ensures quality control of data collected. Performs field, and data analysis of collected samples and records data as needed.
- Will be required to work outside (might include walking distances on uneven terrain and bending and measuring) for the duration of the summer in heat with exposure to insects, etc. Volunteers will work in teams of two throughout the summer.
- Required to operate their own passenger vehicle and utilize a camera as well as Smart Phone or IPAD device to record data.

Qualifications and experience:

- Knowledge and ability to identify milkweed varieties and monarch habitat is helpful
- Valid driver's license and access to a car
- Need to commit to a minimum of one – two days per week every week for the duration of the project. You will be paired with another volunteer for the duration of the project. For scientific data collection accuracy, volunteers will need to commit to the monitoring schedule for the duration of the project.

To apply, please send an email with the following information to Martha Dooley by June 1st mdooley@schaumburg.com

1. Name, email and phone number
2. List all days of the week that you are available for monitoring as well as how many days during the week you would like to volunteer. Monitoring can occur any day; Monday-Sunday. Monitoring schedules will be set once volunteers are established. Flexibility with daytime schedule is preferred. If there are any hourly restrictions during the day please let us know.
3. Any weeks that you will be unavailable for monitoring. Monitoring will tentatively occur during the following weeks: Start date: June 16, 2018 End date: Aug 10, 2018
4. Reasons that you are interested in this project.
5. How you heard about this program.

APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 1ST Training will occur before the start of the program. Searching for 6 volunteers who will be dedicated to this program throughout the summer. Once volunteers are selected, a schedule will be created based on their availability. For more detailed information regarding the Field Museum's Urban Monarch Project, <https://www.fieldmuseum.org/science/research/area/keller-science-action-center/science-action-chicago/monarchs-view-city>