



Butterfly House Information

Where are the butterflies?

The Butterfly House is a seasonal exhibit. In general, the Butterfly House should have butterflies from May-September. We receive our first order of pupae from the butterfly farms in mid-April. Since the butterflies gradually emerge from the pupae, it usually takes a few weeks to notice there are butterflies in the house once we have started adding them. They only live for two weeks, so we receive new pupae every week. Our last pupae we receive from the farm is typically the first week of September. Once we get to mid-September you may notice the quantity appear to decrease.

Weather: Butterfly activity can be affected by the weather. Butterflies tend to like the hot and sunny days, so if the weather is rainy or overcast, they tend to be less active and hide under leaves and in plants.

General questions about the Butterfly house:

What's in the feeders?

The feeders are filled with an artificial nectar source that contains similar sugars and nutrients that would be found in flower nectar. We use these feeders to ensure there is enough food for all of the butterflies in our enclosed space, but we always recommend planting native if you want to attract butterflies in your own yard!

Where do you get the butterflies from?

We get chrysalis shipped to us from butterfly farms. Butterfly farms raise them from egg to caterpillar, and once they form their chrysalis, they ship them overnight to us. We get 75-100 chrysalis each week from mid-April through the first week of September.

How long do butterflies live?

Most butterfly species spend 1-2 weeks in each of their life stages (1-2 weeks as an egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and adult).

Do you release the butterflies?

Once they are in the butterfly house, they will spend the rest of their life in there. They have all of the space, food, flowers, and shelter they need in there!

I have caterpillars/butterflies, can I bring them to you?

We cannot accept caterpillars, chrysalis, or butterflies from visitors due to our USDA permitting regulations. If you have questions or concerns about butterflies in your yard, feel free to email one of the environmental educators for information.