



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**NORTH SUBURBAN
YMCA**
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YMCA Helps Community Welcome Monarch Butterflies at May 21 Event

Northbrook, IL: May 2016 – The captivatingly colorful monarch butterfly is getting a boost in its springtime migration, thanks to residents and organizations that plant milkweed in their gardens. The North Suburban YMCA will encourage this trend with a special “May Monarch Madness” event on Saturday, May 21, from 10:30am to 12:30pm. Guests who visit the Y during the event will receive free milkweed plants, courtesy of the Northbrook Garden Club, and can participate in planting milkweed in the Y’s garden areas.

The monarch butterfly, recognized as the official state butterfly of Illinois, has suffered dramatically declining population numbers in recent years. This decline is significantly tied to the mowing and removal of native milkweed plants from open areas in Illinois and around the country. Milkweed is the monarchs’ best food source as it follows its unique annual migration from Mexico to Canada. Activists, including members of the Northbrook Garden Club, hope that new milkweed plantings will become popular enough to create an attractive resting spot for the butterflies as they travel. The Northbrook Village Board, at the Garden Club’s suggestion, issued a resolution in 2015 encouraging residents to support the monarchs by planting milkweed.

“The Y’s social responsibility committee is excited to partner with the Northbrook Garden Club on this meaningful project,” noted Kathy Fielding, NSYMCA Vice President of Member Engagement and Programs. “It’s a wonderful learning opportunity for children to see that they can make a difference in the world just by planting a few flowers. Hopefully, enough communities will join in these efforts so that we can see monarchs returning in the numbers we enjoyed in the past.”

Participants in the Y’s May Monarch Madness event will receive Rose Milkweed plants, while supplies last, or milkweed seeds along with soil, paper roll planters, and other types of seeds. The North Suburban YMCA is located at 2705 Techny Road in Northbrook. For more information about this event and other community programs at the Y, visit www.nsymca.org or call 847 272 7250.



Photo Caption: Monarch butterflies feed on milkweed plants as they migrate between Mexico and Canada. The North Suburban YMCA will offer free milkweed plants at its "May Monarch Madness" community event on May 21, 2016, beginning at 10:30am.

About the North Suburban YMCA

The YMCA is a charitable organization and relies on donations to make services available for all families and individuals in its 15-city region. All board members are volunteers, who donate their time, talents and financial resources. Located at 2705 Techny Road in Northbrook, the YMCA has served the northern suburbs of Chicago for over 45 years. The Y is about youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility, providing programs and services that address the needs of our diverse community and are accessible to all. For more information or to make a donation, contact Kim Nyren at 847-272-7250 or knyren@nsymca.org, or visit www.nsymca.org.