

Cub Scout World Conservation Award

CONSERVATION PROJECT: Please obtain seed balls from leader or order from: <http://shop.seed-balls.com/products/asclepias-viridis>

Green Antelopehorn Milkweed is a primary food source for the Monarch Butterfly. If you do not plant the seed balls, between October-December then they require cold stratification or a cold season to trigger germination. All resources ask you to please *be patient with the seed balls*...when they are ready, they will grow! Seed balls, also known as seed bombs, protect the seeds from erosion, foraging, and many other factors. This protective property often results in a slower germination cycle.

Cold Stratification: By stratifying, or subjecting seeds to a cold/moist environment for a short period of time, you simulate the conditions of a seed's natural break of dormancy that occurs when the seeds spend the winter in the ground. To stratify, place peat, perlite or sand around the seed ball and place in a sandwich bag. Secondly, moisten the peat with water and place the seeds in the cold soil. Store the seeds in a dark place (a refrigerator crisper works well) for a minimum of 3 weeks up to 3 months. Check the mix weekly to make sure it does not dry out.

Start indoors: if you would like to be in more control of the process, you may start these indoors (cold stratification works best prior to starting indoors because it tricks the seeds into thinking they have been through winter). Fill the seedling trays approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ with potting soil and then cover the seed ball with an additional $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of soil. The soil is then fully saturated with water and placed either in a sunny window or directly under the grow lights; they need a lot of light and warmth to germinate and grow. Keep the soil moist, but don't overdo it. The seeds will take approximately 10 days to germinate.

Plant outdoors: Plant seed balls Oct-Dec. Or if started inside, once there are 4 true leaves on the seedlings (the seedlings will be approximately 3 inches tall), the plants can be transplanted into your garden. Most milkweed species do best in full sunlight, so choose an open area with lots of sun. Plant the seedlings 1-2 feet apart. The seedlings should be watered frequently; mulch can be used to help hold in the moisture around the plants. Some folks just leave the seed balls above ground and let nature take course.

The Milkweed plant is very important to conserve Monarch Butterflies; it is “the only plant monarchs lay their eggs on,” “And it’s the only plant they’ll feed on as larva before they develop into butterflies.” Put very simply: As the milkweed goes, so do the monarchs.

PLEASE PRINT AND VIEW CUB SCOUT CONSERVATION AWARD AND **APPLICATION (on completion)**: http://www.scouting.org/filestore/cubscouts/pdf/512-036_WB.pdf

The **World Conservation Award** provides an opportunity for individual Cub Scouts to 'think globally' and 'act locally' to preserve and improve our environment. This program is designed to make youth members aware that all nations are closely related through natural resources and that we are interdependent with our world environment.

The Cub Scout version of the World Conservation Award can be earned by Wolf, Bear, or Webelos Scouts, but not by Tigers.

This is considered a 'temporary patch' and should be displayed centered on the right pocket. It can be sewn on or displayed in a plastic patch holder hung from the pocket button.

As a **Wolf Cub Scout**, earn the Cub Scout World Conservation Award by doing the following:

- Earn the Paws on the Path adventure.
- Earn the Grow Something adventure.
- Complete requirements 1 and 2 from the Spirit of the Water adventure.
- Participate in a den or pack conservation project in addition to the above.

As a **Bear Cub Scout**, earn the Cub Scout World Conservation Award by doing the following:

- Earn the Fur, Feathers, and Ferns adventure.
- Earn either the Bear Goes Fishing or Critter Care adventure.
- Complete requirement 3 from the Baloo the Builder adventure by constructing a bird feeder or a bird house as one of the options.
- Participate in a den or pack conservation project in addition to the above.

As a **Webelos Scout**, earn the Cub Scout World Conservation Award by doing the following:

- Earn the Building a Better World adventure.
- Earn the Into the Wild adventure.
- Earn the Into the Woods adventure.
- Earn the Earth Rocks adventure.
- Complete requirements 1, 3a, and 3b in the Adventures in Science adventure.
- Participate in a den or pack conservation project in addition to the above.