

MONARCHS IN MEXICO 2010 – TRIP DETAILS

COST OF THE TRIP

The fee for this trip is \$1500.00 per person in a double occupancy room OR
 \$1800.00 per person in a single occupancy room

This fee includes **accommodations for seven nights, all meals** including non-alcoholic beverages (starting with dinner on day 1 and ending with dinner on day 7), **all ground transportation***, **entry fees** to sites included in the itinerary, and **horseback riding** at the Cerro Pelon and Sierra Chincua monarch sanctuaries. Also included in this package are up to two pre-trip meetings, one post-trip meeting (see dates and details below) and a set of **photo CDs** compiled from photos submitted by participants in the week that you traveled.

Items not included in this fee are airfare, trip insurance, a tip for the bus driver, alcoholic beverages, and souvenirs. Excluding trip insurance and airfare, which can vary greatly depending on your point of origin and the timing of your ticket purchase, most of our previous trip participants have found that about \$300.00 US dollars (converted to MX pesos) will cover the expenses that are not included in the trip fee.

You are responsible for making your own round trip flight arrangements to the Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico (MLM) airport. We highly recommend that you make your flight arrangements after November 15, 2009, at which time we will advise you of the best options and fares available.

**Please note we are not able to provide transportation to and from the airport in Mexico City nor can we accommodate arrival and departure times at the Morelia airport other than those noted in the itinerary.*

Reservations are accepted and confirmed after we receive a signed application form and **\$750 deposit** for each trip participant. Applications with deposits will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis until spaces are filled. Each trip is limited to sixteen participants. **The balance of the trip fee must be received by December 31, 2009.**

MEXICO BOOK PROJECT – OPTIONAL DONATION

Over the past seven years Monarchs Across Georgia and the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia have worked with Scholastic Mexico to provide elementary-level books written in Spanish to students living in the rural areas surrounding the monarch overwintering sanctuaries in Mexico. If desired, you may choose to make a **tax-deductible donation** to help bring much-needed educational materials to these children.

As a reference, books generally cost about \$5.00 each in American currency. In appreciation, a bookplate with your name (or name designated by you) will be attached to the inside cover of each book donated. Donors may also be recognized on the Monarchs Across Georgia website. For additional details please visit www.monarchsacrossga.org/MAGMexicoBookPrj.php. The deadline to make donations to the 2010 Mexico Book Project is December 31, 2009.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR TRAVEL TO MEXICO

All persons including U.S. citizens traveling by air between the United States and Mexico will be required to present a valid U.S. Passport Book. *Please note that the new U.S. Passport Card cannot be used for international air travel.* To obtain or renew a U.S. Passport Book, refer to the U.S. Department of State website at http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html. The time required to process a Passport Book is approximately four weeks although this can be expedited for an additional fee.

You will be issued a Tourist Card to complete on the airplane as you enter Mexico. Keep this card safe with your Passport Book at all times. You will need to present it when you leave the country.

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

Please read this section carefully.

The monarch butterfly colonies are usually located near an elevation of 10,000 feet. Depending on where the colony forms on the mountainside, the hike can be strenuous for people not used to this altitude. If you have any doubts about your health at such altitudes, we strongly suggest that you consult your physician first.

Both in order to experience the ambience and because there is often no alternative, we will be walking every day. The distances may be as short as a few city blocks to as long as four miles. You should be able to walk several miles comfortably to take full advantage of the opportunities available. Walking on inclines or hills will best prepare you for this trip.

Please do not apply for this trip if you have medical conditions that will deter you from participating fully. If you have asthma or any other problems that will be aggravated by dust, ten thousand foot elevations or strenuous exercise, this trip may not be appropriate for you.

No vaccinations are required to enter Mexico. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends immunization against Hepatitis A. Visit the CDC website on Traveler's Health at wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinationMexico.aspx for the latest information on potential health hazards in Mexico, especially if you choose to extend your stay to visit areas that are not on our itinerary.

To avoid traveler's diarrhea, follow these common-sense rules from the CDC:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially before eating. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand gel (with at least 60% alcohol).
- Drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated (bubbly) drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes.
- Do not eat food purchased from street vendors.
- Make sure food is fully cooked.
- Avoid dairy products, unless you know they have been pasteurized.

Bottled water is available in all of the rooms of our hotels as well as at every meal. We will also have a 5-gallon container of purified water with a pump on the bus to refill your water bottles.

If traveler's diarrhea (TD) does occur, the prescription drug, ciprofloxacin, is almost an overnight cure. Imodium or Kaopectate can help relieve symptoms. Drinking and eating cautiously is usually sufficient to avoid the problem. **Please consult your doctor. Obtain a prescription for TD and bring your medication with you!**

Please also remember to bring your other prescriptions and over-the-counter medications, such as those for motion sickness and allergies. Purchasing even simple over-the-counter medications can be difficult in rural Mexico. If you are prone to respiratory infections, you may also want to consider asking your doctor for a prescription and bringing this medication with you.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information including a map of the area that we will visit, hotel contact information, a suggested packing list, etc. will be provided at our first pre-trip meeting.

Up to two pre-trip meetings and one post-trip meeting are scheduled to better prepare you for the trip, to answer your questions and to facilitate the educational/ service opportunities that are available. Pre-trip meetings are held at Confederate Hall in Stone Mountain Park, Stone Mountain, GA. A reminder and directions will be sent to trip applicants prior to the meetings. The location of the post-trip meeting in the Atlanta, Georgia area will be announced at a later date.

- Saturday, December 5, 2009, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
(This meeting is designed for everyone participating in the trip.)
- Saturday, January 9, 2010, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
(This meeting is designed for teachers seeking professional learning units - PLUs.)
- Friday, March 26, 2010, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Five PLUs are available for Georgia certified teachers participating in this trip. In addition to a signed "prior approval form" from your school or district, attendance at the January 9 pre-meeting is required for PLU credit.

Out-of-state participants are not expected to attend meetings. If you cannot attend, all information from the meetings will be e-mailed or sent to you via USPS in a timely fashion.

If you have any questions or concerns about the trip, Please contact Susan Meyers at 404-388-8228 or smmeyers@gmail.com.

MONARCHS IN MEXICO 2010 – TRIP APPLICATION FORM
Coordinated by Monarchs Across Georgia

Join us for a journey to the heart of Mexico featuring the monarch butterfly overwintering sanctuaries, visits to a rural Mexican school, tree nursery, and colonial towns. Enjoy the sumptuous cuisine and be fascinated by the many aspects of Mexican culture.

WEEK OF TRIP

Please mark your first and second choice of dates by entering the number 1 and 2 respectively in the blanks below. (If you are not able to travel during one of the weeks, please write the word NO in the blank.) Your reservation will be confirmed after application form and deposit are received.

____ **February 6 – 13, 2010**

____ **February 13 – 20, 2010**

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name(s) (Print clearly the full name as it appears on the passport for each traveler.)

1. _____ Birth date _____ US Passport Number _____

2. _____ Birth date _____ US Passport Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School (if applicable) _____ Grade(s) taught _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

E-mail Address(es) _____

Name of emergency contact _____

Relation to emergency contact _____

Phone number(s) of emergency contact _____

Special dietary requirements _____

I have read the Health Precautions section of the Trip Details and do not have any existing medical condition that would deter me from participating fully in this trip's activities.

_____ **(please initial here)**

ACCOMMODATIONS (check one)

____ **Double Occupancy Room**

I wish to room with _____ OR Please assign a roommate

____ **Single Occupancy Room**

PLEASE COMPLETE THE NEXT TWO PAGES OF THIS APPLICATION – SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED

I. DEPOSIT - BALANCE DUE - CANCELLATION POLICY - MEXICO BOOK PROJECT

A **deposit of \$750.00** per person is due with your application. **The balance of the trip fee must be received by December 31, 2009.** All monies are to be paid to "Monarchs Milkweed & More, LLC." There will be a \$30.00 fee assessed for any returned checks.

This deposit minus a 10% processing fee is refundable if cancellation is made in writing by November 1, 2009. For cancellations made after November 1, 2009, any partial refunds will be granted at the sole discretion of Monarchs Milkweed & More, LLC. If a partial refund is made, it will not exceed 50% of the total amount paid. Medical circumstances cannot be considered as exceptions to the cancellation policy. In the event Monarchs Milkweed & More, LLC cancels a trip, for any reason, all money for services described in the Trip Details, less airline ticket cancellation fees will be refunded.

Please check the appropriate blanks and enter the amount enclosed.

<input type="checkbox"/> \$750.00 deposit for each applicant	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Optional donation to the Mexico Book Project*	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____

*For additional information about the **Mexico Book Project**, please see page one of the Trip Details. We ask that the information below be completed so you, or the persons of your choice, can be recognized on the bookplates placed inside books, on certificates, and/or on the Monarchs Across Georgia website. You will also receive a letter acknowledging your tax-deductible donation.

Please print clearly the name(s) you would like to have printed on the bookplate(s) and certificate(s). Each \$5.00 donation provides one reading book written in Spanish.

The name(s) of donors may also be posted on www.monarchsacrossga.org. Do you want this information about you (or the person(s) listed for the bookplates/certificates) to be posted online? We will not provide any additional information about the donor(s).

Please initial your response here. **YES** **NO**

II. TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is not provided by Monarchs Across Georgia, Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia or Monarchs Milkweed & More, LLC. We strongly recommend you purchase trip insurance. Most available policies provide redress for trip cancellation, various delays and inconveniences, travel accidents, associated emergency medical/dental problems and, if needed, emergency transportation. There are many agencies that provide travel insurance; Access America (www.accessamerica.com) is one such agency. Your personal travel agent may also be able to recommend a resource.

Please initial one of the following choices.

I do not wish to buy insurance.

I already have travel insurance.

I plan to purchase travel insurance on my own.

III. LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Monarchs Milkweed & More, LLC contracts with service providers in Mexico who provide means of transportation, lodging, meals and/or other related travel services. Monarchs Across Georgia, the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia, Inc. and Monarchs Milkweed & More, LLC assume no responsibility howsoever caused for injury, loss or damage to persons or property in connection with any service resulting directly from: acts of God, detention, annoyance, delays, expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, thefts, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, civil disturbances, terrorism, government or regulations, and discrepancies or changes in transit or hotel services over which we have no control. Reasonable changes in the itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well-being of the participants. By making final payment to Monarchs Milkweed & More, LLC, the client agrees to be bound by the above terms and conditions.

I have read and accept the responsibility clause as stated above. I authorize *Monarchs Across Georgia* and Monarchs Milkweed & More, LLC to make reservations for me in accordance with the information above.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

IV. PHOTOGRAPH RELEASE

I, (Please Print Name(s)) _____, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is acknowledged, give to Monarchs Milkweed & More, LLC, ("MMM") its officers, agents, legal representatives, successors, and all persons or corporations acting with its permission and direction, unrestricted permission to copyright and/or use, and/or publish photographic portraits or pictures of me, and the negatives, transparencies, prints, or digital information pertaining to them, in still, single, multiple, moving or video format, or in which I may be included in whole or in part, or composite, or distorted in form, or reproductions thereof, in color or otherwise, made through any media at the for art, or any other lawful purpose.

I hereby waive any right that I may have to inspect and approve the finished product or copy that may be used in connection with an image that MMM has had taken of me, or the use to which it may be applied. I further release MMM, the Photographer, or others for whom it or he is acting, from any claims for remuneration associated with any form of damage, foreseen or unforeseen, associated with the proper commercial or artistic use of these images unless it can be shown that said reproduction was maliciously caused, produced and published for the sole purpose of subjecting me to conspicuous ridicule, scandal, reproach, scorn and indignity. I certify that I am not a minor, and am free and able to give such consent.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Please mail this signed trip application form (pages 4-6) and a check or money order (made out to "Monarchs Milkweed & More, LLC") in the amount of \$750 per person to:

**Monarchs in Mexico 2010, c/o Susan Meyers,
1497 Candleberry Court, Lilburn, GA 30047**