# Raise, Tag, and Release (RTR) Summer Program

Monarchs Matter & ReWild Long Island





# Problem





80%

of the eastern U.S. migratory monarch population has declined since 1996

## **Major Causes of Decline**



#### **Deforestation**

Oyamel fir forests in Mexico, which serve as overwintering habitats for monarchs, are destroyed for illegal logging, agriculture, and urbanization.



#### **Pesticides & Herbicides**

Pesticides and insecticides can kill monarchs and milkweed, the primary food source of monarch larvae.



## Climate Change

Rising global temperatures disrupt cues for migration and increase extreme weather events, such as increased rainfall that causes fewer eggs to be laid.

## Why monarchs?

Monarch butterflies are native to New York, serving as vital pollinators and a crucial food source for various organisms. Furthermore, their 3,000-mile migration journey makes them crucial for ecosystems across North America.



## Learn more



MonarchsMatter.net ReWildLongIsland.org



## Become a Monarch Expert

Learn about the life cycle, habitats, and role of monarch butterflies while gaining hands-on experience raising, tagging, and releasing monarchs to support monarch monitoring research through the *Monarch Watch Tagging Program* and the *Monarch Larva Monitoring Project*.

#### Start Your Sustainable Garden

Receive free swamp milkweed to plant in your yard or balcony, growing biodiversity and providing food and shelter for birds, pollinators, and various native species.

## **Meet New People**

Connect with adult and youth mentors, volunteers, and interns passionate about fighting the climate and biodiversity crises through tightly-knit weekly in-person sessions and WhatsApp conversations.

## Make Your Resume Shine

As part of the ReWild Long Island Summer Program to Fight Hunger and Climate Change, choose to either (1) intern for 60+ hours and receive a stipend or (2) volunteer for 30+ hours and receive official volunteer hours for your resume.





