This project is designed for older school-age youth who often need more challenging programs to retain their interest. Long term projects support accreditation efforts.

**Essential Elements of 4-H Youth Development**

Youth involved in 4-H know they are cared about and feel a sense of **BELONGING**; they exercise **INDEPENDENCE** by using decision-making and action to influence people and events; they develop a sense of **MASTERY** by learning skills needed in making positive career and life choices; and they experience **GENEROSITY** by helping others through community service. These elements support the Army Youth Development Components of Belonging, Success, Service and Independence.

**Ideas! Ideas! Ideas!**

- Guest Speakers: Butterfly expert, teacher, naturalist, someone with a butterfly garden, nursery person
- Field Trips: Butterfly garden, botanical garden, nature center, garden club meeting, county extension office, zoo, native plant nursery

**Opportunities for Youth Leadership and Development and Cross-age Teaching**

At least seven of the activities in Project Butterfly Wings are designed to be done as a group and provide occasions for leadership development. Youth will learn a lot from participating in this project and the information gained will be good to share with others. See Group Activity G, Leader Guide, page 66 for suggestions on public speaking and other presentations.

**Summary**

Through butterfly exploration this curriculum fosters interest, understanding and long term involvement in science through authentic experiential learning and joint research with scientists. The project promotes the survival of butterflies and the expansion of their habitat through service-learning and ecological understanding.

**Project Butterfly Wings**

Using 4-H Projects to Enhance School-Age & Youth Programs
**Experiential Learning**

Experiential Learning engages children and youth while they learn, share, and grow through their 4-H experiences. With an adult as the coach, the first step is “doing” or exploring. Next, youth share what they did and discuss the experience with their peers. After they’ve identified the skills and knowledge gained, help them determine how to apply these to other situations in their lives. Questions might include: How do you identify butterfly families? How can these families help you learn about the families of other insects? How does the skill of comparing help you make choices in your daily activities?

**Life Skills**

“Skills that help an individual to be successful in living a productive and satisfying life” are identified as Life Skills (Hendricks, 1996). Life skills in this project include self-confidence, decision making, critical thinking, goal setting, planning and organizing, communication, learning to learn, wise use of resources, personal ethics and character, perseverance and positive relationship skills with others.

**Related 4-H Projects**

Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) in the context of 4-H includes Robotics, Power of Wind, Exploring Your Environment, Entomology-Insectagonza of Excitement and many more subjects. Go to the following website www.flmnh.org/curriculum to read about these curriculum choices and how to order the materials. Activities from Project Butterfly Wings can also be a part of the After-School Agriculture project and Outdoor Adventures.

**Linking to the Army’s Four Service Areas and Baseline Programming**

Sports, Fitness and Health Options

Put on hiking shoes and hit the trails. Not only is hiking a great Sports, Fitness and Health Option activity it will also give youth an opportunity to observe the world of butterflies. Step Into the World of Butterflies, Youth Guide, pages 13-20, provides suggestions on where to find butterflies and how to document observations.

**Character Connection**

Character Counts everywhere...all the time. Remember to be respectful of others and the environment while enjoying and counting butterflies. Exercising the Pillar of Citizenship means to keep the environment clean – don’t litter or leave anything behind that could be harmful to humans or animals. Citizen science helps youth become involved in an important environmental project and helps to strengthen their commitment to giving back to the community.

**Service Learning Opportunities**

Citizen Science provides a community service opportunity for youth to collect and enter data to help scientists count butterflies in selected locations. Follow the instructions at the website for citizen science http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/wings/. Another service learning activity is planting a monarch butterfly way station to promote the survival of monarchs. See Leader Guide, page 35 for more information.