# You Can Make a Difference:
Save the Pollinators

Our Goal

A.S.A.P. is a group effort by the students of Ames High School to raise awareness and inform the community about pollinators. We have taken several steps in order to spread the issue about pollinators. Several events have been organized, including Pollinator Awareness Week and Pollinator Palooza. We have high hopes that after learning about pollinators, the benefits pollinators provide us with, and the issues pollinators are facing, you will consider finding a way to help. This pamphlet will guide you through the necessary information, the problem we are working to fix, and ways you can help us do just that.
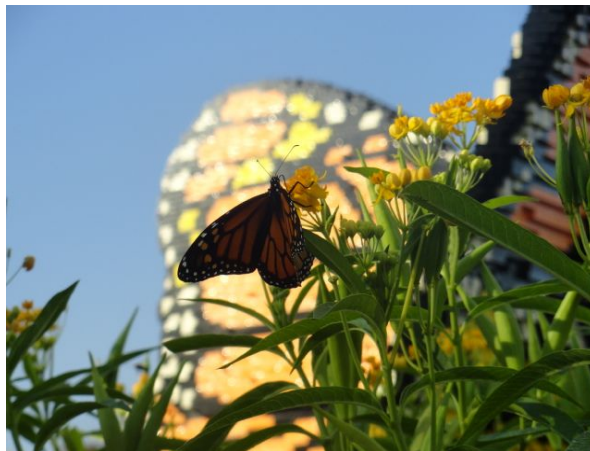
The World of Pollination

The U.S.D.A. (United States Department of Agriculture) defines pollination as "the act of transferring pollen grains from the male anther (the part of the flower that contains the pollen) of a flower to the female stigma." Pollinators and the process of pollination play a very important role in forming strong crops and producing many of our foods. There are many different types of pollinators: bees, wasps, hummingbirds, bats, butterflies, moths, grasshoppers, etc. There are also many different ways in which pollination occurs. One way is triggering the flower to release pollen due to the pollinator flapping its wings at a particular frequency. As the pollinator moves from flower to flower, it spreads the pollen into another plant's stigma which completes the process of pollination.

Understanding the Issue

Pollinators are currently facing harmful situations such as habitat loss, degradation, fragmentation, and pesticides. These situations are threatening pollinators all around the world. Tomatoes, carrots, watermelons, strawberries, pears, peaches, apples, hazelnut, cocoa, coffee and the alfalfa that feeds livestock all depend on the process of pollination. Environment Iowa tells us that "we rely on bees to pollinate 71 of the 100 crops that provide 90% of most of the world's food." However, many farmers are using pesticides on their crops which are intended to kill insects and have the same effect on insect pollinators. Now, we need to help protect pollinators.

How Can You Help?

- Minimize the use of chemicals around your household (i.e. weed killers and insecticides).
- Provide host plants that pollinators use as their source of nectar and a place for their larvae to eat and grow into adults
- Build a pollinator garden with a variety of native plants

A.S.A.P. plans to use pollinator gardens as our primary method for helping the pollinators. We are looking for volunteers from our community who are interested in planting a pollinator garden. You will select from a list of native plants and we will help you design a yard plan. All we ask from you is that you maintain the garden which we will be providing guidelines for. We highly encourage you to consider planting a pollinator garden at your home and if you are interested, you can fill out the form through the link provided.

Sign up for a pollinator garden at the link below or use the QR Code!
http://bit.ly/2g2DXsV

To find out more about *Ames Students Aiding Pollinators* visit our website or check us out on social media!

Website: http://ahspollination.weebly.com/
Instagram: @ahspollinatorproject
Facebook: AHS Pollinator Project
Twitter: @ahspolliNATION

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Works Cited

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