City of Mesa

Mesa, AZ

Mayor John Giles

Pledge Summary

The City of Mesa is a part of a large metropolitan area in Arizona that is located in the beautiful desert Southwest. Mesa has been fortunate to be able to work with Southwest Monarch Study, a nonprofit researching the migration and breeding patterns of monarch butterflies in Arizona and the Southwestern U. S. Through their efforts, we know that there is much more to learn about the wild monarch migration throughout our region. With a size of 138 square miles and a population of over 500,000 residents, it just makes sense that we can and should be mindful of ways to enhance habitat for these and other pollinators and to encourage our greater community to do the same. It is an honor for me to support this initiative from the National Wildlife Federation and to join hundreds of other mayors in this effort.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Communications and Convening

- Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Mark Freeman	2026	3/5/2026	
Mayor Mark Freeman	2025	2/6/2025	Signatories
Mayor John Giles	2024	3/5/2024	Signatories
Mayor John Giles	2023	3/30/2023	Signatories
Mayor John Giles	2022	2/15/2022	Signatories

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Mayor John Giles	2021	4/12/2021	Signatories

Action Items

In total, how many individuals have been reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan-Dec)? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

2000

Of the total number of individuals engaged, how many youth (0-18) were reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan. - Dec.)? If none, please write 0." (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.)

200

In total, how many acres of monarch habitat have been created in your city in the last 12 months? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 3). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0

Where was the habitat created this year? Example locations may include residences, schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, shared public spaces, and more.

NA

How are you leveraging the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program to engage marginalized communities, such as low-income communities or communities of color?

We have not

What was your community's motivation for taking and continuing to work on the Mayors' Monarch Pledge?

To continue to show our support of this initiative.

What resources have been most helpful to you thus far and what new resources would you like to see to help meet your goals? What resources would be useful to help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

Materials for our climate - Sonoran Desert - in Spanish. Need more milkweed growers.

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What else should we know about your monarch butterfly conservation efforts over the last year?

We have partnered with SW Monarch Study.

Selected Action Items

Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Monarch Communication and Social Media.pdf

Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).

See pdf with sample social media posts!

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

wl_MCC Monarch Waystation Sign.jpeg

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

Mesa Community College

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

25

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Milkweeds planted during a work day.

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Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Mesa Red Mountain Spring Equinox in the Monarch Garden.png

How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)

300

What was the date of your festival?

March 16, 2024

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

Mesa Public Library

Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

Families are welcome at the Monarch Haven and Reading Sanctuary at Red Mountain Library to celebrate the spring equinox. Southwest Monarch Study will share their expertise about monarch butterflies in Arizona. The library will also provide crafts for kids to enjoy. The spring equinox occurs when the sun crosses the equator line, heading north. This event marks the start of spring season in the northern hemisphere. https://events.mesalibrary.org/event/spring-equinox-monarch-garden-121290

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Antonio Esteban Intern at MUG Waystation.JPG

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Monarch event - entry to garden.JPG

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Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Monarch Haven & Reading Sanctuary Signs.JPG

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Monarch Haven & Reading Santuary Signs 2.JPG

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Monarch Signs at Mesa Urban Garden.JPG

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Puddling Sign.pdf

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

8

Please describe the educational information on the sign(s), and provide any links to externally purchased sign(s).

At our Mesa Urban Garden, a community garden we have the Monarch Waystation designation. There are three signs at that location. One is about the Monarch Waystation and two are about Monarchs. At the Monarch Haven and Reading Sanctuary we have five signs. A sign with the name of the pocket park, three interpretive signs and a puddling station sign.

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