



The EmilyAnn Theatre & Gardens

Butterfly Raising Instructions

Butterfly Festival Date: 3rd Saturday in April

Contact: 512-847-6969 or butterfly@emilyann.org

Emergency Contact or Questions: Ann Rolling at 512-423-0699

Your cage was prepared by the Hays County Master Naturalists!

Schedule after Receipt of Cage

- 1) 7-10 days after receipt of cage** - Chrysalises should form and attach to the lid. All caterpillars should be chrysalises 2 weeks prior to Butterfly Festival.
- 2) 3 days after chrysalis formation** - Remove the lid from the cup and suspend on the rack. If some fail to attach, place them on their lid on top of the rack. Lightly mist the chrysalises each day using the spray bottle provided with your cage.
- 3) 4 days after chrysalis formation** – Butterfly food is Gatorade and must be in the cage. Soak the provided cotton balls in Fierce Grape, Orange, or Tropical Punch Gatorade as needed. Use no fruit or flowers, only Gatorade. When feeding your butterflies with saturated cotton balls, make sure that there is no standing liquid around the cotton balls. Butterflies can drown in the liquid.
- 4) 7-10 days after chrysalis formation** – Butterflies will begin to hatch. Do not mist the butterflies. All butterflies should be hatched by the week of Butterfly Festival.
- 5) 2 days after butterflies hatch** – Return your cage to the EmilyAnn. They will be placed in a chilled environment to preserve their life cycle for release.
- 6) Thursday before Butterfly Festival** – Deadline for all butterflies, cages and mist bottles to be returned to the EmilyAnn.

Tips and Warnings

- 1)** Keep cage in a constant temperature of 68-70 degrees. Do not keep it in direct sunlight or in a draft.
- 2)** The larvae create their own environment in their growing cups. They have all the air needed in their cups. Do not remove lids before chrysalises attach.
- 3)** Most schools and businesses are warm and dry so be sure and follow the misting schedule above during the chrysalis stage so they do not dry out. Most deformities in adult butterfly wings are a result of drying while in the chrysalis stage.
- 4)** The red liquid that butterflies excrete is meconium which is the excess fluid that was not used during wing formation.
- 5)** Schools may make arrangements in advance to have the Master Naturalists pick up their cages. This is done by contacting the EmilyAnn at the contact information given at the top of this form.

Fun Facts about Painted Lady Butterflies

- Wing span is 1.75” to 2.75”
- Life span is 2-3 weeks
- Wings are white, brown, orange & black
- Favorite flowers are Aster, Cosmos, Thistle & Button Bush
- Host plants (caterpillars like to eat) are Thistle, Mallow & Hollyhock
- Indigenous to the entire United States