

Request for Research Proposals

Lincoln P. Brower Award



In honor of Dr. Lincoln Brower's extraordinary dedication and commitment to monarch conservation, the Monarch Butterfly Fund has established the **Lincoln P. Brower Award** to support undergraduate or graduate student research that is applicable to the conservation of monarch butterflies and their habitats. Dr. Brower, a founding member of the Monarch Butterfly Board, began studying monarch butterflies in 1954 and dedicated his career to understanding and conserving them.

I. Overview of Proposals

We encourage proposals for research that is directly applicable to conserving monarchs in any part of the North American range or annual cycle of breeding, migrating, and overwintering in Mexico, the U.S or Canada. Funding for the Brower award is limited to \$3000 and will normally support research that can be conducted in one year. Funds can be used to support supplies, travel, stipends for field assistants, and other legitimate research expenses.

All projects carried out within the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (MBBR) and surrounding areas must have the approval of the Reserve's authorities. If the projects involve local communities (ejidos and indigenous communities) or are in the communal properties, they must also have approval from the parties involved. Applicants should submit the relevant documentation in the form of an approval letter from the Reserve and/or local community(s).

In addition to a final report at the completion of the project, interim reports should be submitted by email to the address below, whenever there are changes in the activities or planned expenses of the project. The final report should include an assessment of the value of the work achieved by the project.

Potential applicants should contact us for input during proposal development at mbf@monarchconservation.org

II. Applications

Applications are due March 31. The application should consist of a cover page; up to three single-spaced pages that include an abstract, project description, and timeline; a one-page budget that includes a list of expenditures and justification; and a letter of support from the student's advisor (see details below). Before submitting, please confirm with your advisor how these funds will be processed through your institution's Office of Sponsored Research or equivalent and have your advisor address this in the letter of support. MBF does not support indirect costs.

1. A cover page with the title of the proposed project; the strategic initiative(s) that the work addresses; the date of submission; the name, address, and e-mail address (if available) of the person responsible for the work; and the total amount requested.

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2. An abstract of 150 words or fewer.
3. A summary of proposed work, with a project description and timeline. This section **MUST** address how this work contributes to monarch conservation and should include references to relevant research. The timeline should include details for the year of funding, with some description of the researcher's plans for the work after the initial funding period, if relevant.
4. A detailed budget with justification of proposed expenses (1 page), including funding from other sources and an estimate of what amount will be needed to reach your goals.
5. Confirmation in writing of support for the project by the student's faculty advisor (this letter should be submitted separately by the advisor).

All research proposals should clearly address 1) the questions and hypotheses that will be addressed, 2) the methods that will be used to test the hypotheses, 3) proposed project timeline, 4) any relevant previous findings by the applicant, 5) the relevance of the proposed work to monarch conservation, and 6) references cited.

Applications may be submitted electronically as a PDF or a Microsoft Word document to mbf@monarchconservation.org. Items 1-6 should be compiled as a single document.

A proposal will not be considered until all required components, as noted on the checklist below, have been submitted. Please note the need for written approval from other groups that would be affected by the proposed project.

Checklist for Submission.

- ☐ Cover page
 - ☐ title of project
 - ☐ strategic initiative(s) addressed by this project
 - ☐ date submitted
 - ☐ name, mailing address, and email address of principal applicant
 - ☐ total amount requested
- ☐ Abstract
- ☐ Description of the affiliations and roles of additional participants in the project
- ☐ Summary of previous related work
- ☐ Description of proposed work
- ☐ Timeline of activities
- ☐ Detailed budget
- ☐ Written approval by the faculty advisor, and, if relevant, MBBR authorities and communities in Mexico.

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III. Review process

Proposals will be reviewed based on the clarity of the project description, likelihood that the project will be successful, relevance of the proposed work to monarch conservation, and support from the advisor.

Any questions about possible projects or the application process should be directed mbf@monarchconservation.org.