

National Flight of the Monarch Day

BUTTERFLY KITE



Overview

Making and flying kites are a great way to celebrate the summer and the flight of the monarchs! This simple delta kite is made from Tyvek, a water-resistant and lightweight material that produces a highly durable kite with excellent flying ability. An affordable alternative is to use a 2-ply plastic bag as your kite making material.

You will need...

- Tyvek roll (ours was 24" wide)
- Two 3/16"/5mm dowels
- Electrical tape
- Kite line and winder
- Permanent markers
- Ruler
- Scissors

Instructions

- 1 Cut a 24" x 24" square of Tyvek. Fold Tyvek into a triangle
- 2 Create a scalloped pattern along the folded edge. Once the kite form has been cut out, your scalloped edge should resemble the partially folded wings of a butterfly.
- 3 Cut the scalloped edge. You will have two identical kite forms. Set aside one of the kite forms for another project.
- 4 Decorate with waterproof markers.



5 Prepare three 17" long dowels. Place two pieces along the diagonal edges of the kite form.



6 Place the third dowel vertically along the centre of the kite form.

7 Use 8 pieces of electrical tape to stick the dowels into the positions shown. Fold the tape around to the other side of the kite form.



8 Cut a 24" length of dowel and lay it across the sail, placing at the halfway point from the nose. The dowel will extend a couple of inches beyond the kite form.

9 Join the dowels by wrapping the areas where the dowels cross with electrical tape. Be careful to avoid getting tape on the kite form.



10 Make a small hole in the kite form with scissors, where the horizontal and vertical dowels cross each other in the middle.

11 Thread the kite line through the hole and tie it firmly around the vertical dowel. The horizontal dowel is intended to float freely during flight, so be sure to attach the kite line to the vertical dowel only.

12 Use leftover Tyvek to make a 2"/5cm wide tail for the kite. The tail should be no shorter than 4 times the length of the kite itself. Tie or tape the tail to the bottom of the vertical dowel. Your kite is ready to fly!



This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Monarch Nation
Supporting Species at Risk 

Program of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority