Pollinator Portraits

for Teens and Adults

Pollinators have an essential role in flowering plant reproduction and maintaining the health of our local ecosystems. Get to know your local pollinators and which flowers attract them by taking their portraits!

ITEMS YOU WILL NEED:
Outdoor flowers and a camera or smartphone

OPTIONAL EXTRAS:
Instagram and iNaturalist apps

1. Go outside, into your backyard, or for a walk around your neighborhood. Take time to observe the flowers around you. What colors and scents are you noticing?
2. Use your ears and eyes to pay attention to any buzzing or movement around the flowers. These may be pollinators: animals which carry pollen from flower to flower while they feed on the plants' nectar. Bees, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, other insects, and even hummingbirds are all pollinators.
3. If you see a pollinator on a flower, get out your camera and capture it in a photo! If you are curious about the species of flower or pollinator you found, try using the iNaturalist mobile app. Remember to maintain a comfortable distance from your subjects. If your pollinators are taking note of you, back up!
4. Pollinators have favorite foods just like we do. Which flowers seem to attract pollinators the most? Do different species of pollinators have different favorite flowers? Look through your photos and see what you discovered!

TO FURTHER EXTEND THIS ACTIVITY:
Post your pollinator photos to Instagram and tag us, @cincynature
or get involved with a citizen science project like Ohio Bee Atlas.
You can also learn more about mason bees and how to support them here.