



April 2015

Earth's Birthday Project: Inspiring wonder, learning and care for our Earth!

Earth's Birthday Project was founded in 1989, with a huge birthday party for the Earth in New York City's Central Park on Earth Day. The first year, 4,000 Head Start students were given cups of painted lady caterpillar butterflies to release after singing "Happy Birthday Earth!"

The next year, 10,000 Head Start students attended Earth Day in Central Park, and a gigantic birthday card banner signed with a million children's hand prints, was draped around the Museum of Natural History. That same year, students in New York raised money to purchase and protect critical rainforest in Brazil, which resulted in the removal of 16 illegal logging companies.

Since then, students across the country have protected critically endangered habitats in nine countries, on four continents! Earth's Birthday Project would like to celebrate 25 years of life-cycle observation, and student conservation by donating cups of Painted Lady Butterfly Caterpillars to GrowNYC.

GrowNYC embodies the principals of earth stewardship, sustainability, and connection for students in New York, and this is something that Earth's Birthday Project would like to recognize and celebrate!

Your cup of caterpillars is complete with food and will grow into their chrysalis before your eyes over the next two and a half weeks. Once they attach to the top of the container and appear hard, with gold specks, carefully remove the paper from the cup, attach a paper clip and secure it inside the paper cottage, or a hand-made habitat of your own. The butterflies will begin to emerge one by one. You may observe them in their habitat for a few days before releasing. They like to eat orange rinds or will sip sugar water from a bottle cap placed inside the habitat.

Then – bring them to your garden to release! Make sure to take pictures! Enjoy!

Compliments of Cliff Ross, ED, and Earth's Birthday Project

www.EarthsBirthday.org

To find out more about our student conservation program, Big Gift to the Earth, please visit

www.EarthsBirthday.org/gifts