



# Techniques for Making Pollinator Friends at Events, Especially Farmers Markets!



Have you ever been invited to table about bees, monarchs or other pollinators at a festival or event? If so, you know "tablers" literally have mere moments to connect with passers-by and share their message. Here are some really nice ideas for making fast buddies for bees, butterflies, beetles, flower flies and other pollinators.

These instructions are available at <https://www.beecityusa.org/resources.html>.

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## Farmers Market Scavenger Hunt How-To



Parents and grandparents who bring little ones to Farmers Markets are grateful to offer them a fun activity to bring the market to life. Here's a home run idea!

### 1st Base!

Prepare Vendors—As the market opens, have one volunteer prepare the vendors: explain the scavenger hunt concept to them and display a laminated card (download artwork for vendor card at <https://www.beecityusa.org/resources.html>) their booth to alert "scavengers" that something on their list can be found at that booth. A volunteer can retrieve the cards when the market closes. Many vendors know very little about pollinators or which foods are pollinated by which pollinators. Most probably don't know about local pollinator conservation efforts underway. Preparing vendors for the scavenger hunt is an opportune time to share information and make new friends.

### 2nd Base!

Prepare Kids—Ideally with the help of at least 3 volunteers, recruit scavengers, set up scavengers with instructions and pencils, and outfit scavengers with antennae and wings.

As children pass by your table, ask them if they would like to go on a scavenger hunt to find foods, beverages and other products (e.g. cotton) containing ingredients that were pollinated by bees and other animals. While parents are shopping, the kids will be on the lookout for the items on their list, which may be fresh produce or ingredients in a prepared product. If they agree, invite them to choose a magic marker and write their name on the poster board, so when they finish the hunt, they can proudly add the number of items they found next to their name and select their prize.

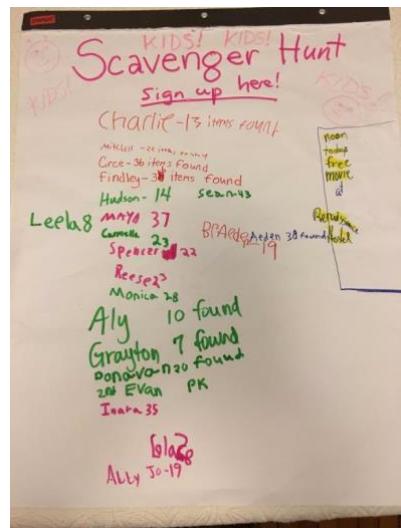
The scavenger hunt instructions and check-off list are printed back and front on a half-page of paper with artwork available at <https://www.beecityusa.org/resources.html>. (You may want to create your own instructions to substitute food items more common in your area.)

Once they have their check-off list and pencil, move the kids to an adjoining table to get them dressed appropriately for their hunt--with antennae. If you've had time to make wings in advance, you may also want to offer wings. (Instructions for making antennae and wings follow below.)

### 3rd Base!



Engage the parents and grandparents in pollinator education. As you equip the kids for the hunt with the scavenger hunt checklist, antennae and wings, it's a natural time to have a conversation about which foods are pollinated by which pollinators. Everyone is surprised to learn that flies pollinate avocados, cherries, coffee, mangoes, pears, blackberries, raspberries and tea plants! A list you can have on hand for that discussion is available at <https://www.beecityusa.org/resources.html>.



### Home Run & Prizes!

As the kids walk around the market in wings and antennae, checking their lists and asking vendors what they carry from the list, the whole market starts buzzing about pollinators, more kids get recruited, and everyone leaves knowing more than they did before.

When the kids report back, have them: (1) write the number of items they found on the poster board next to their name, and (2) choose their prize (bee stickers, bees on a string...).

Encourage them to take their scavenger hunt card home with them as a reminder of pollinators' hard work. Invite parents to sign up for email updates on your local pollinator conservation efforts. Of course, you can do the scavenger hunt at any food market, but outdoor farmers markets are the most fun, especially for volunteers.

## Scavenger Hunt Supplies: What You'll Need

The artwork for these printed items is available at <https://www.beecityusa.org/resources.html>:

- Half-page Scavenger Hunt check-off list
- Bee City USA antennae poster (optional)
- Vendor scavenger hunt cards--to display in booths that have items on hunt list (optional)

Here are other supplies you will need:

- Pencils for scavengers (inexpensive "golf pencils" are available at office supply stores)
- Colorful, water soluble magic markers (for recording their name at end)
- Flip chart paper or poster board on short easel or firm support of some kind (for recording their name at end)
- Prizes for kids (bee and butterfly-related stickers, bee on a string ...) (Instructions for bee-on-a-string available at <https://www.beecityusa.org/resources.html>)
- Sign-up sheet for your email list (optional)
- 1-2 six foot tables
- Donation jar (optional)

## Helpful Logistics Tips

1. Contact your Farmers Market in advance to request permission to host a pollinator scavenger hunt. You are providing a service to the Farmers Market, so they may even give you free booth space and possibly a tent and table.
2. Have a few volunteers on hand to: prepare vendors for the hunt when the Market opens, make antennae, recruit kids, outfit kids with antennae and wings (wings are optional), retrieve scavenger hunt cards from vendors at the end of the market, and pack up.
3. OPTIONAL—Display a poster at the front of your booth headlined, "Scavenger Hunt Starts Here!" and directing, "A. Get instructions. B. Get antennae & wings. C. Go on hunt. D. Report back for prize."
4. OPTIONAL—Display a donation jar to cover your printing and supplies costs, and/or find a sponsor to cover your costs, and thank them with a sign at your booth.
5. Invite parents to sign up for email updates on your local pollinator conservation efforts.

## Antennae & Wings Instructions (Great for Any Event)

Once the child agrees to go on the scavenger hunt, encourage them to become a pollinator of their choice (bee, flower fly, butterfly, or beetle) using Bee City USA's antennae poster shown below with artwork available at <https://www.beecityusa.org/resources.html>.



The kids love hearing that they can smell flowers and food with their antennae, and try flying for the first time with their new wings!

### Make Inexpensive Pollinator Antennae

#### Supplies:

- Headbands—Get the simplest variety you can find, ideally without teeth. Narrower is better than wide versions. If you get black, you don't have to worry about boys shunning colors and many pollinating insects' heads are black! They are available in bulk on the Internet or in inexpensive 6-packs from dollar stores.
- Chenille Pipe Cleaners—Craft stores carry them in packs of 100 or 300. We use black for all but fly antennae. For fly antennae, we use brownish-orange color.

#### Antennae Instructions

You can make them as needed or show kids how to make their own. Hold up headband, and place end of pipe cleaner on top just to the side of the center, and wrap 2- 3 times tightly around headband. Antennae will flop over and look sad if not wrapped tightly. Repeat for 2nd antennae.

- Bees—bend antennae halfway down.
- Butterflies—make small node in end by folding ends a couple of times.
- Beetles—leave antennae alone except you may gently curve them outwards.
- Flies—cut brownish orange pipe cleaner (black is OK, too) in half, then fold half pipe cleaner in half to find its middle. Match pipe cleaner middle to headband middle, and wrap pipe cleaner's center on headband, leaving the ends standing up. Then bend them down to make nubby fly antennae.

It's helpful to place sample sets of antennae on the antennae poster (bee antennae on bee section, and so on).

### Make Inexpensive Pollinator Wings

#### Supplies:

- Light colored (white, off-white, soft gray...) tulle fabric (like ballerina tutus) of medium stiffness, available in fabric stores
- Chenille pipe cleaners (available in bulk from craft stores)
- Largish safety pins (available in bulk from craft stores)

#### Wing Instructions—Have a wing party with volunteers before event!

- Cut tulle in approximately 12" X 24" pieces. (If you want to make them a little nicer, fold them in half, and round one outside corner.)
- Grab the tulle piece in the middle and wrap it with one pipe cleaner. (We like white pipe cleaners, but black will work fine.) You can practice and get really creative with the wrapping, but tuck the ends inside so they won't hurt the child's back.
- Insert open safety pin, head first, through middle of pipe cleaner wrapping and close safety pin until ready for pinning to child's shirt back.
- Pin onto child's shirt back close to neck.

## Bee City USA Pollinator Antennae Poster (Great for Any Event)



The artwork for this poster is available at <https://www.beecityusa.org/resources.html>. It's best to print on large format printer at 15" x 36" and laminate.

Show children the poster and ask if they would rather be a bee, a fly (we really cheer the flies!), a butterfly, or a beetle. (One little boy told us he didn't want to be a Japanese beetle and when we explained there are lots of good beetles that are terrific pollinators, he decided to be a beetle!)

**Bees** tend to have long black antennae with elbow bends; **flower flies** tend to have short, stubby nubs; **butterflies** tend to have long straight antennae with small nubs on the ends; and **beetles** tend to have dramatic, gently curving, long black antennae.

It's helpful to place sample sets of antennae on the poster (bee antennae on bee section, and so on).

The kids love hearing that they can smell flowers and food with their antennae, and try flying for the first time with their new wings!

# Posters for Farmers Markets

## From Shannon Chapin Groff in Carrboro, NC

Carrboro, North Carolina, was the third city to become certified as a Bee City USA affiliate. They frequently use their Farmers Market as an educational opportunity and one of their volunteers, Shannon Chapin Groff, developed six nice posters they are willing to share (shown as thumbnails below), including the "Employ-Bee of the Month" series, showcasing a Honey Bee, Green Sweat Bee, Southeastern Blueberry Bee, a Squash Bee, and a Blue Orchard Mason Bee. While they mention that these bees are native to North Carolina (except the honey bee), we hope they will serve as inspiration for others to replicate the concept for their area. The sixth poster has a variety of fresh produce at the top, and the same picture repeated on the bottom but with items that required pollinators removed.

They may be printed on 11" x 16" paper, or even 18" x 24". Each poster features photos, the species' geographic range, and what they pollinate. Many thanks to Shannon and Carrboro for sharing their creation with other affiliates. Shannon has donated the original Adobe Illustrator art for Bee City USA to share if you would like to customize it for your community. Just make a request at [beecityusa@xerces.org](mailto:beecityusa@xerces.org). The artwork for these posters is available at <https://www.beecityusa.org/resources.html>.

**EMPLOY“BEE” OF THE MONTH**

**Southeastern Blueberry Bee (*Habropoda laboriosa*)**

**My background:**  
I'm native to North Carolina.

You can tell me apart from bumblebees by my yellow face.  
I am one of the few bees that uses “buzz” pollination;  
I buzz to release pollen grains on the crop I've visiting.  
I nest in the soil, in tunnels I've dug!

**My favorite food to pollinate is:**  
Blueberries!

**Have you thanked a pollinator lately?**

**EMPLOY“BEE” OF THE MONTH**

**Blue Orchard Mason Bee (*Osmia lignaria*)**

**My background:**  
I'm native to North Carolina.

I'm blue!  
I nest in hollow stems and natural holes. Since I can't  
drill my own holes, I depend on holes that others,  
like humans and woodpeckers, have drilled.

**My favorite food to pollinate is:**  
Peaches, pears, apples - anything that grows in an orchard!

**Have you thanked a pollinator lately?**

**EMPLOY“BEE” OF THE MONTH**

**European Honeybee (*Apis mellifera*)**

**My background:**  
I'm not native to the US, but I've been  
here since the early 1600s.

Once I've found a good flower patch, I perform a  
“waggle dance” to direct my fellow honeybees to the food.  
I live in large colonies, which can 40,000 - 80,000 strong!

**My favorite food to pollinate is:**  
No favorites here - if it has a flower, I'm on it. I'm a workhorse!

**Have you thanked a pollinator lately?**

**EMPLOY“BEE” OF THE MONTH**

**Squash Bee (*Peponapis pruinosa*)**

**My background:**  
I'm native to the US, but my original range expanded  
with the domestication and cultivation of squash.

I'm easily confused with a honeybee,  
but the distinct stripes on my belly can help you tell us apart.  
I'm an early riser - I forage all morning and often fall asleep  
right in the squash flower when it closes for the day!

**My favorite food to pollinate is:**  
Cucurbits (squash, pumpkin, zucchini) all the way!!

**Have you thanked a pollinator lately?**

**EMPLOY“BEE” OF THE MONTH**

**Green Sweat Bee (*Augochlorella aurata*)**

**My background:**  
I'm native to North Carolina.

I have a bad rap that I sting; really, I'm just interested in your sweat  
and will only sting if I get stuck when investigating.

I am beautiful! My color can range from gold to green to turquoise.

**My favorite food to pollinate is:**  
I'm not picky; I'll visit most every fruit and vegetable crop  
but I really enjoy strawberries and watermelons!

**Have you thanked a pollinator lately?**

**Today's Fruit & Veggie Market Offerings in Our World WITH Pollinators**

**Today's Fruit & Veggie Market Offerings in a World WITHOUT Pollinators**

**Have you thanked a pollinator lately?**

## From Megan McManamen and Alex Mansur in Gillette, WY

Gillette, Wyoming, became a Bee City USA affiliate in 2016. Like Carrboro, they wanted to use their Farmers Market to make the connection between pollinators and the foods we enjoy. Many thanks to Megan and Alex for sharing their artwork for these educational 8.5" x 11" posters!

Laminate these posters and display them at Farmers Markets to start a conversation about pollinators. The artwork is available at <https://www.beecityusa.org/resources.html>.



Foods and Beverages produced with the help of pollinators found at the Farmers' Market include:  
Apple, Cherry, Melon, Peach, Pumpkin, Peppermint, Coriander, Chocolate, and Coffee

