



# Butterfly Adventure

press kit

Butterfly Adventure will be a four-week event bookended by the opening day – Butterfly Festival – and the closing day – Blueberry Festival, and will offer an experience unique to our region. Visitors will be welcomed into the indoor rainforest environment, a living exhibit where hundreds of native butterflies fly freely, alighting on fragrant flowering plants and, quite possibly, on a friendly visitor’s shoulder or finger. Children and adults will be delighted as they wander along a meandering path through the lush landscape of tropical trees and colorful plants, witness free-flying creatures interacting with plant life, and emerge with a better understanding of the environment needed for the survival of these spectacular animals. Skilled interpretive staff will be on-hand to answer questions and provide visitors with a personal and highly engaging experience. Educational displays will identify the species, and show the stages from egg to emergence from the chrysalis and the first wing-beats. Outside, the butterfly garden shows varieties of both host plants and nectar plants that attract butterflies. Demonstrations and additional activities will take place there.

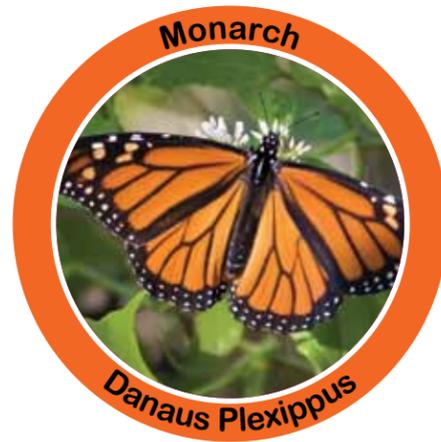
While attracted by the butterflies, tourists will find more than a full day of fun if they take this opportunity to visit other attractions at Roper Mountain, rarely open to the public. One admission includes all activities. Discover the Marine Lab for all things oceanic. It houses six large aquaria and a beautiful “tide pool” tank where visitors can safely pet the stingray and get up close and personal with small animals of the ocean bottom. Explore the Ecology Lab to see South Carolina habitats from the mountains to the sea: a Mountain Trout Stream, a Beaver/Turtle Pond, a Cypress Swamp (with alligator), and a Salt Marsh. A large terrarium of carnivorous plants highlights our Carolina Bay habitat and guest can observe a live honeybee hive at work. Visitors may also play in the tree houses, walk the nature trail or linger in the shade of the arboretum.

Local history buffs will enjoy the Living History Farm featuring authentic log cabins, corn cribs, a barn, a blacksmith shop, and a school that have been relocated and reconstructed to demonstrate life in the early 1800s.

Gardens, fields, pasture, a farm pond, and farm animals typical of the time complete the scene.

Volunteers in period costumes will demonstrate various activities such as making candles, cooking on the hearth, spinning, or caring for animals as our forefathers did. This facility is one of the few living history farms in our state, and the only one in the Upstate.

## event overview



### Our top 10 list of things to see & do:

Encounter hundreds of free flying native butterflies all around you.

See the stages from egg to emergence from the chrysalis.

Visit migrating species and see host plants outside in the Butterfly Garden.

Find out how wings work and other natural engineering in the Design Challenge.

Enjoy creature crafts and fabulous fun activities.

Pet a stingray in the Marine Lab’s tidal pool touch tanks.

See South Carolina’s habitats from the mountains to the sea in the Ecology Lab.

Try your hand at churning butter or feeding a lamb.

Pause to play in one of the tree houses or check out the turtles in the pond.

Take a walk on the Nature Trail or linger in the Arboretum.

## At-a-glance

### Butterfly Adventure at Roper Mountain Science Center

Come to see the butterflies, and find more than a full day of fun with the Living History Farm and other attractions at Roper Mountain, rarely open to the public. Admission includes all activities.

Open Daily June 11 - July 9  
Mon - Sat: 9am - 2pm  
Closed Sundays & July 4

Open until 3pm on these 2nd Saturdays  
June 11, Butterfly Festival  
July 9, Blueberry Festival

#### Admission

\$8 Adults, \$7 Kids 4 - 12  
FREE - Kids 3 and under  
FREE - RMSC Members

For information and tickets visit:  
[RoperMountain.org](http://RoperMountain.org)

### About Roper Mountain

Roper Mountain Science Center, the most impactful organization in the Upstate focused on science education, is uniquely positioned as a public-private partnership (with Greenville County Schools) to:

- deliver curriculum-based, hands-on STEM learning for students
- offer inspiring “edutainment” for the public and
- produce state-of-the-art training for teachers.

Each year, more than 50,000 students, 6,000 teachers, and 30,000 families and adults visit Roper Mountain Science Center, so the reach into the community is wide.

### Roper Mountain’s Mission:

To ignite the natural curiosity of all learners to explore and shape their world

### Roper Mountain’s Vision:

To be a pinnacle of innovative learning, an engine for community engagement and a national leader in science education

## about us

### Staff Available for Interviews

#### Thomas Riddle

Thomas Riddle currently serves as Assistant Director at Roper Mountain Science Center and as an adjunct Professor of Education at Furman University. For more than twenty years, Thomas has served in education as a teacher, coach, principal, district-level administrator, college professor and educational consultant for school districts, textbook publishers and the South Carolina Department of Education. He regularly conducts professional development training in educational design, curriculum development, and instructional methodology at the local, state and national levels.



Thomas has been active in promoting social studies education throughout his career and has served on the board of directors for the South Carolina Council for the Social Studies and as president of the South Carolina Social Studies Coordinator’s Association. As a supporter of historic preservation and public history, he has been involved in numerous historic preservation projects including serving as leader of the only History Channel-supported Save Our History Project awarded in South Carolina.

In 2007, in cooperation with Lucasfilm, Ltd., he created “Adventures in Learning with Indiana Jones” which provides interdisciplinary curriculum and lesson ideas based upon the iconic film hero. In 2012, he launched a companion project, “Star Wars in the Classroom”, providing inspiration for lessons in history, mythology, science, and the arts.

#### Lorie Thibodeaux

Natural Science Teacher, Roper Mountain Science Center  
• Bachelor’s Degree in Education; Master’s in Technology in Education  
• Certified to teach all subjects in elementary and middle school science



Lorie Thibodeaux is a Master Teacher with 21 years of experience teaching science at the elementary and middle school level. She currently develops and instructs hands-on, curriculum-based learning labs for students at Roper Mountain Science Center. Using innovative inquiry approaches, Lorie engages students in areas of natural history, life and earth science.

In Lorie’s programs, she leads students to interact with live animals, from hissing cockroaches to butterflies to pythons, which greatly enhances their educational experiences. She also designs and conducts science and social studies Virtual Field Trips for students all over the country.

#### Kyle Rollins

Natural Science Specialist and Department Head, Roper Mountain Science Center  
• Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education; Master’s Degree in Education



Kyle Rollins is a Master Teacher with 15 years of experience teaching science, and is department chair for Natural Sciences at Roper Mountain Science Center. Kyle previously worked as the K-12 Science Consultant for Greenville County Schools and Elementary Science Lab Teacher in Greenville and Spartanburg counties. He currently develops and instructs hands-on, curriculum-based learning labs for students in areas of natural history, life and earth science. His love for the outdoors and nature enables him to bring his interests into the classroom with real hands-on learning for students of the world around them.

In Kyle’s programs, he facilitates the instruction of students to interact with live animals, which greatly enhances their educational experience. He also grows carnivorous plants that students and visitors get to enjoy.



media & art

Photos Available For Use



Artwork Available For Use



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# contact us

For press, appearances, and advertising opportunities for Butterfly Adventure please contact:

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Follow our website and social media for ongoing information about for Butterfly Adventure  
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