

Who Can Become an Affiliate of Bee Campus USA?

College and University campuses can work to reverse pollinator declines on their campus by becoming affiliates of Bee Campus USA.

Bee Campus USA's sister initiative, Bee City USA, works with cities and towns that are incorporated municipalities. Counties can also become Bee City USA affiliates if most activities are taking place in unincorporated areas within the county.

Groups and individuals that do not fit into one of these categories but would like to commit to conserve native pollinators can become involved in the Xerces Society's Bring Back the Pollinators campaign and take the Pollinator Protection Pledge. Learn more at bringbackthepollinators.org.



By joining Bee Campus USA, taking Xerces' Pollinator Protection Pledge, or simply taking small steps in your daily life to increase habitat, reduce pesticide use, or spread awareness, you are joining a global movement to protect pollinators.

Learn more about the Bee Campus USA program, read answers to frequently asked questions, and find out how to apply at:

beecampususa.org

Bee Campus USA is an initiative of the Xerces Society.



Established in 1971, the Xerces Society is at the forefront of invertebrate protection, harnessing the knowledge of scientists and enthusiasm of communities to implement conservation programs worldwide. Xerces uses hands-on conservation, advocacy, education, and applied research to protect the life that sustains us.

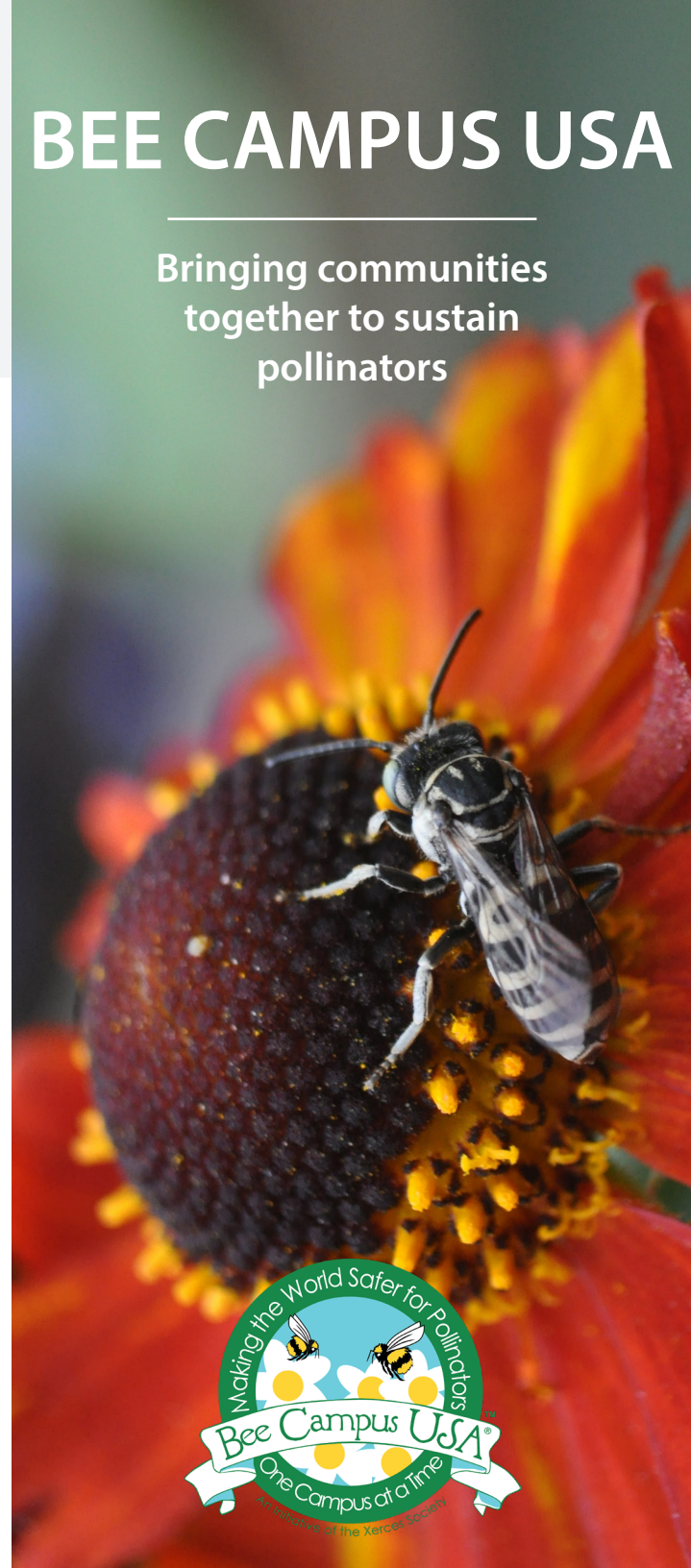
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
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Credits: Cover photo by Sara Morris. Habitat photo by Mark Starrett, The University of Vermont. Planting photo by Marianella Franklin, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

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BEE CAMPUS USA

Bringing communities
together to sustain
pollinators



About Native Pollinators

Bees transfer pollen between flowers, enabling the incredible diversity of plants on our planet to fruit and reproduce. Pollinators are keystone species in essentially every ecosystem on earth, facilitating the reproduction of over 85 percent of all flowering plants and over two-thirds of agricultural crops.

In addition to the domestic honey bee (*Apis mellifera*), a species brought to North America from Europe, there are more than 3,600 species of bees native to the United States. These wild bees are generally quite different than the domesticated honey bee—most of them live solitary lives, with a single female doing all of the work to build a nest, collect pollen and nectar, and lay eggs.

Unlike the honey bee, which nests aboveground and can be managed in wooden hives, more than two out of three wild bees live underground in nests that can be hard to spot from the surface! Some dig down and lay their eggs several feet below ground, while others make nests near the soil surface or in hollowed out plant stems above ground.

Research has shown significant declines in native pollinator population sizes and ranges globally with up to 40 percent of pollinator species on Earth at risk of extinction in the coming years as a result a variety of environmental stressors including habitat loss and degradation, exposure to pesticides, diseases and pathogens, and climate change.

What is Bee Campus USA?

Thinking globally and acting locally, Bee Campus USA brings communities together to sustain pollinators by increasing the abundance of native plants, providing nest sites, and reducing the use of pesticides. Affiliates of Bee Campus USA also work to inspire others to take steps to conserve pollinators through education and outreach.

Bee Campus USA affiliates make commitments to conserve native pollinators. Join the campuses across the country rallying to protect pollinators and create positive change!

Commitments

So what does becoming an affiliate of Bee Campus USA entail?

Bee Campus USA affiliates carry out a set of commitments for creating sustainable habitats for native pollinators. Students, faculty, administrators, and staff work together to fulfill these commitments and make their campus a better place for pollinators.

Establish a standing Bee Campus USA committee.

Create and enhance pollinator habitat on campus by increasing the abundance of native plants and providing nest sites.

Reduce the use of pesticides.

Offer courses or continuing education opportunities that incorporate pollinator conservation.

Offer service-learning projects to enhance pollinator habitat.

Display signage focused on pollinator conservation.

Maintain an online presence for Bee Campus USA activities.

Annually apply for renewal and report on the previous year's activities.

Benefits to Your Community

Ensure survival of vital animal species including bees and other pollinators crucial to the health of our environment.

Build community locally and nationally through bringing your campus together around a positive, shared cause and connect with communities across the country that have made the same commitment.

Improve local food production and raise community awareness of how our food grows.

Support small, local businesses including native plant nurseries and pollinator-friendly landscaping.

Address pest problems with fewer pesticides using integrated pest management.

Heighten awareness of biological diversity.

