

Monarch Award FAQ

If you have ideas for additional questions to be answered on this page, email dsmma@frontiernet.net

How and when did the Monarch get started?

The website gives a brief history of the origin of the Monarch Award.

How many schools/libraries and children participate annually?

In 2005, 667 schools and libraries registered and approximately 95,000 children voted.
In 2006, 719 schools and libraries registered and approximately 115,000 children voted.
In 2007, 753 schools and libraries registered and approximately 121,000 children voted.
In 2008, 780 schools and libraries registered and approximately 113,000 children voted.
In 2009, 897 schools and libraries registered and approximately 154,000 children voted.
In 2010, 840 schools and libraries registered and approximately 154,000 children voted.

May I use the Monarch logo?

If you are legitimately promoting the award, you may copy and use the logo. You may not use the logo on any item for sale or profit.

Can preschool or 4th grade participate in the Monarch Award?

They can be involved in all activities and even vote for your school winner, but please keep their votes separate and do not submit them. Since the Monarch Award is a K-3 award, we only want votes submitted from those ages.

How many books do I have to have to participate in the award?

The children should have access to 12 of the nominated titles. If you can't buy them, borrow from the public library or library system. Scholastic Book Fairs has had many of the titles in its fall book fairs. If funds are low, consider inviting parents or businesses to donate some of the titles.

How can I share and promote the Monarch Books?

Visit the website for many ideas on the books such as Author information, Questions, Activities, Related Books, Websites and more. <http://www.islma.org/monarch.htm>

How can I make sure the children read at least five books and are eligible to vote?

Remember Monarch books can be read aloud so they could be part of story times. If you read five books to each grade level, you only have to check students who moved in during the year to be sure they have read five. Another idea is to make teachers your partners by rotating the books to each classroom, a book a week. One school shared that they read all 20 titles in February, a book a day, and then vote. Promote the list to parents for summer reading. Share the list with your public library so they can have the books on hand for students. Some schools associate the books with reading programs such as Accelerated Reader or Reading Counts and can check to see if a student passed a quiz.

How can I keep track of books read?

For teachers make a grid (made with a table) with a box for every book. Then they put thumbnail picture "stickers" on the title when they or the librarian reads it. Templates are available at the website.

Kids can mark on their bookmark or use a classroom grid to put a small sticker next to each book read.

What stickers are available?

ISLMA handles orders for stickers. Make checks payable to ISLMA and mail to Monarch Stickers, % ISLMA, Box 598, Canton, IL 61520 An order form is available at the website.

Small (1" x 1") **nominee** stickers—60 for \$6

Larger (1.5") round stickers with the **logo only**—24 for \$6 You could add nominee, winner or year to these.

Winner (1.5") round stickers—4 for \$2 Specify the year 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 etc.

How should we conduct voting?

Any method that gets a true vote is fine. Some methods allow students to see others votes and at this age they are very susceptible to peer pressure. I am sure you are aware that the kids always like the last book you read or look around to see how their friends are voting, so private voting is preferred. Some ideas that libraries have shared are:

1. Use the ballot template provided on the website. It is numbered. Have a bulletin board with the same numbers then even non-readers can pick the picture of the book they liked best and mark the corresponding number.
2. Some schools have made picture ballots. If paper and copying budgets are not an issue, this is another good idea.
3. Some schools put beans, pennies, or tokens in cans that have a picture of the book.
4. Some put stickers on a chart. This allows students to see others votes.