



Welcome to Citizen Science Month!

There are many opportunities for libraries to participate in Citizen Science Month (April 2020). This letter provides a few ideas to help you get started.

WHAT IS CITIZEN SCIENCE?

As we face global challenges, we may want to find local ways to make a difference in protecting endangered species, safeguarding water sources, preventing disease, or accelerating medical research. Science needs more eyes, ears and perspectives than any scientist possesses. Enter citizen science: a collaboration between scientists and those of us who are just curious or concerned and motivated to make a difference.

Citizen science is an invitation to everyone to participate in real science--on topics they care about--following protocols for data collection, analysis, and reporting. Citizen science can be fun, but it is also serious science that accelerates research.

Citizen science is for everyone, and your library can become a hub for citizen science.

“WHERE CAN I GET STARTED?” YOU ASK?

SciStarter--a web-based research affiliate of the School for the Future of Innovation in Society at the Arizona State University--is where millions of people discover opportunities to participate in this movement that's sweeping the globe, making citizen science a perfect addition to formal and informal programs in schools, museums, libraries, senior centers, parks, and at home! There's something for everyone.

Thanks to support from the National Library of Medicine, SciStarter has partnered up with the School for the Future of Innovation in Society at Arizona State University to present Citizen Science Month. This annual event celebrates and promotes all things citizen science: amazing discoveries, incredible volunteers, hardworking practitioners, inspiring projects, and anything else citizen science-related! Other partners include the Citizen Science Association, Science Friday, and National Geographic.



We're here to help you get started! Here are some examples of how you can bring citizen science to you library during Citizen Science Month and beyond. All of these resources are available for free at CitizenScienceMonth.org.

LOW EFFORT

Download, print and display a poster, flyers and bookmarks. Interactive posters invite patrons to share their citizen science experiences.

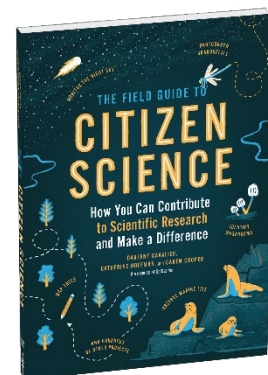


MODERATE EFFORT

Host an "Introduction to Citizen Science" event using free, turn-key digital resources designed for newcomers and underrepresented in biomedical research communities.



Host a book club meeting to discuss *The Field Guide to Citizen Science* (TimberPress 2020), written by the experts at SciStarter.





MORE EFFORT

Host a Bioblitz or Megathon, or add citizen science to your Earth Day programs. Find instructions for these and other ideas in the free, downloadable Library and Community Guide to Citizen Science.

If you already have an event planned, add it to SciStarter so we can help promote it and so we can help keep track of all the wonderful Citizen Science Month events taking place across the country!

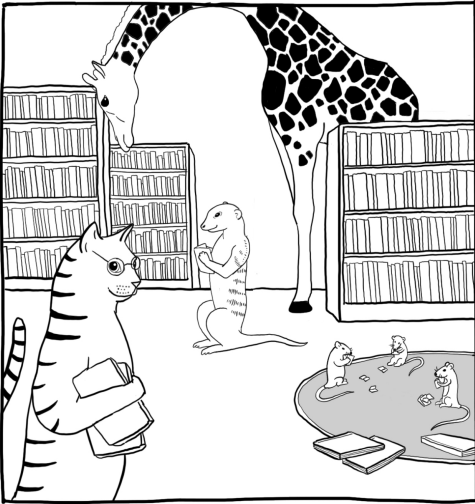
READY TO GET STARTED?

Follow these steps first. Everything you need is at CitizenScienceMonth.org.

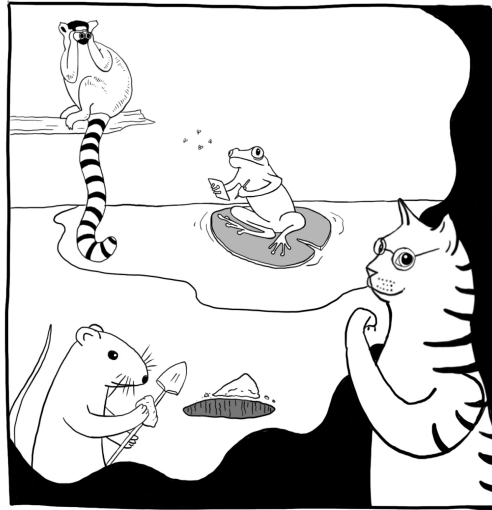
1. Sign up to receive our [updates for event facilitators](#), join one of SciStarter's "Citizen Science Month Office Hours, and explore CitizenScienceMonth.org.
2. [Fill out a survey](#) about receiving resources from the National Library of Medicine, if applicable.
3. Think about how you can [incorporate projects](#) selected by the National Library of Medicine and [resources from SciStarter](#) into your library programming.
4. [Add your event](#) to SciStarter.

Contact CarolineN@SciStarter.org with questions.

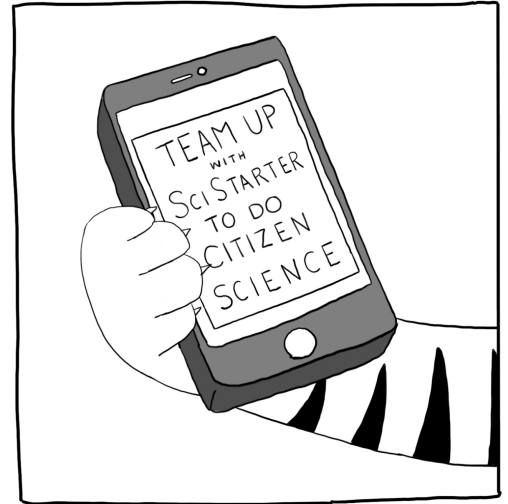
PLAN YOUR OWN CITIZEN SCIENCE EVENT



CARLA IS A LIBRARIAN. SHE WANTS HER LIBRARY TO BE A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE CAN DEVELOP THEIR CURIOSITY AND MAKE AN IMPACT ON THEIR COMMUNITY.



SHE'S HEARD ABOUT CITIZEN SCIENCE, WHERE EVERYDAY PEOPLE COLLECT AND SHARE DATA WITH SCIENTISTS TO ACCELERATE RESEARCH.



CARLA SEES A POST ABOUT SCISTARTER.ORG, WHICH CONNECTS PEOPLE TO THOUSANDS OF CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECTS AND LOTS OF FREE RESOURCES, INCLUDING THOSE FOR CITIZEN SCIENCE MONTH (CITSCIMONTH) IN APRIL.



SHE JOINS ONE OF THE PHONE CALLS OFFERED BY SCISTARTER EACH WEEK TO HELP PEOPLE HOST A CITSCIMONTH EVENT AND LEARNS ABOUT A CURATED PAGE OF SIX PROJECTS SELECTED BY THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE. SCISTARTER.ORG/NLM



CARLA WANTS TO ENGAGE THE SENIOR POPULATION USING THE DIGITAL RESOURCES AT HER LIBRARY, SO SHE PICKS THE PROJECT STALL CATCHERS, AN ONLINE GAME WHERE VOLUNTEERS CATEGORIZE IMAGES FROM BRAIN STUDIES.



SHE SELECTS A TIME AND DAY FOR THE SENIORS TO COME TO THE LIBRARY TO LEARN ABOUT CITIZEN SCIENCE AND PLAY STALL CATCHERS, TOGETHER.



SHE REGISTERS HER EVENT ON CITIZENSCIENCEMONTH.ORG, AND BEGINS SPREADING THE WORD! SHE CONTACTS OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS AND USES FREE PUBLICITY MATERIALS AT CITIZENSCIENCEMONTH.ORG TO LET PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT HER EVENT.



THE CITIZEN SCIENCE EVENT IS A HIT! PEOPLE MAKE NEW CONNECTIONS IN THEIR COMMUNITY, AND THE BRAIN RESEARCHERS GET DATA. CARLA IS ALREADY GETTING REQUESTS TO DO ANOTHER EVENT AND SHE CAN TURN TO SCISTARTER.ORG TO FIND LOCAL OR GLOBAL PROJECTS!

LEARN MORE ABOUT
CITSCIMONTH,
FIND RESOURCES,
OR REGISTER YOUR
EVENT AT:
CITIZENSCIENCEMONTH.ORG