



WHAT IS CITIZEN SCIENCE?

Citizen science connects scientists and everyday people to help accelerate research and discovery, from astronomy to zoology. SciStarter.org matches you with the right project based on your interests, location, and skills. You can make an impact!

CitizenScienceMonth.org

Host or Participate in Citizen Science Month Events in April

Accomplish Meaningful Research in the Process

SciStarter and the School for the Future of Innovation in Society at Arizona State University, with support from the National Library of Medicine (NLM), are engaging the public to help speed up health research breakthroughs through the All of Us Research Program.

The All of Us Research Program has a simple mission. We're asking one million or more people to share health information. In the future, researchers can use this to conduct thousands of health studies.

(Tempe, Arizona) -- February 26, 2020 -- Citizen Science Month (April 2020) is an annual celebration of all things citizen science. Libraries around the world will provide a home base for people to learn about citizen science and participate in real science.

Libraries are safe, welcoming spaces and are quickly becoming community hubs for citizen science. Citizen Science Month coincides with Earth Day, the City Nature Challenge and the American Library Association's National Library Week, and many libraries across the nation will host special events to celebrate all things citizen science. Building on a new program to circulate citizen science kits through libraries, these events fit well with the mission to use libraries to strengthen communities and transform lives through education and lifelong learning.

"Libraries serve as vital community hubs, and this collaboration presents a perfect opportunity to help the public understand how health research impacts all of us," said Patricia Flatley Brennan, R.N., Ph.D., director of NLM. "Working with our vast network of public libraries, we hope to contribute to medical breakthroughs that may lead to more tailored disease prevention and treatment solutions for generations to come."

"Citizen Science is a scientific project that involves the public partnering with professionals in different aspects of research – from planning, to data collection, to analysis, to dissemination, and everything else in between. The National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) supports citizen involvement in scientific research because it's a great way to break down some of the barriers between researchers and the public and it also helps foster better understanding of data in this increasingly data driven world."

"The power of citizen science is the massive impact that is made by everyday people, individually and collectively," said Darlene Cavalier, Founder of SciStarter and a Professor of Practice at SFIS at Arizona State University.

"Community events will help support people to participate alone or as a community, in-person or online. There are many ways for anyone who is curious or concerned about local or global issues to engage in citizen science, even from the comfort of home."



To get started, go to CitizenScienceMonth.org to:

- Add or find a local event
- Download free resources including bookmarks, posters, fliers and a Library and Community Guide to Citizen Science
- Promote your event and recruit participants

About Citizen Science Month Partners

SciStarter.org is the place to find, join, and contribute to science by providing people access to more than 3,000 searchable formal and informal research projects and events. SciStarter also offers a coordinated place to record contributions and access the tools and instruments needed to participate in citizen science projects. More than 100,000 global citizen scientists are part of the SciStarter community, a research affiliate of the SFIS at Arizona State University.

ASU's School for the Future of Innovation in Society is planning now for the kinds of futures that we will want to inhabit. Focusing on humanity's plausible futures, we make innovation the object of systematic study and informed critique, so that we might get what we truly want and need out of our scientific and technological endeavors. With our interdisciplinary faculty, students study the promises and challenges of new technologies and the big ideas that change our lives each day. We believe that the future is for everybody, and that we all have innovative roles to play in weaving science and technology into the social fabric.

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) operates the Training and Education Center (TEC) to support the All of Us Research Program. Training and educational materials are targeted to key audiences using a Team Science framework, highlighting NLM and National Institutes of Health (NIH) resources and using the expertise of national partners. The TEC collaborates with the National Network of Libraries of Medicine's Community Engagement Network (CEN). The CEN focuses on NLM's mission to improve the public's access to health information and provide awareness of All of Us to communities that are Underrepresented in Biomedical Research by partnering with libraries across the United States. The CEN is designed to leverage the mission of the NLM to help libraries in supporting the health information needs of their users.