



# scistarter

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**SCISTARTER**  
CITIZEN SCIENCE  
DIGITAL BADGING  
PROGRAM OVERVIEW





# CONTENTS

**03**

## **ABOUT SCISTARTER**

Learn more about SciStarter.

**05**

## **WHAT IS CITIZEN SCIENCE?**

A brief overview of SciStarter's citizen science digital badging program.

**06**

## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Explore SciStarter's training modules for participants and facilitators.

**08 - 23**

## **DIGITAL BADGES**

Getting started is easy, anyone can earn the first digital badge.

**24**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Browse the most frequently asked questions by SciStarter learners.

**28**

## **GET INVOLVED**

How you can connect with the SciStarter Digital Badging Program.



**SciStarter transforms curiosity into impact.**

From astronomy to zoology, SciStarter's acclaimed citizen science hub connects millions of people with thousands of scientific investigations in need of their help across interest, experiences, location, and age.

SciStarter is a research platform of Arizona State University and North Carolina State University.

**Learn more at [SciStarter.org/training](https://SciStarter.org/training)**



# Training and Badge Series is Produced by

**SciStarter**

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**Watch Me Learning Services**

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**Micro-credential Multiverse**

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In collaboration with subject matter experts and funders as acknowledged in pages to follow.

**scistarter**  
Science we can do together.

  
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# — What is Citizen Science?

Science is our most reliable system of gaining new knowledge and citizen science is the public involvement in inquiry and discovery of new scientific knowledge.

A citizen science project can involve one person or millions of people collaborating towards a common goal. Typically, public involvement is in data collection, analysis, or reporting.

The fields that citizen science advances are diverse: ecology, astronomy, medicine, computer science, statistics, psychology, genetics, engineering and many more.

The massive collaborations that can occur through citizen science allow investigations at continental and global scales and across decades - leading to discovery that a single scientist could never achieve on their own.

# Program Overview

## Digital Badging Program at-a-glance

The Foundations of Citizen Science module will help you learn the basics, participate in projects, and make the most of SciStarter. Upon completion of this module and badge, learners can access follow-on training modules and badges.



### Foundations of Citizen Science

This award recognizes citizen scientists who have translated their curiosity into impact through their demonstration of foundational citizen science skills.



### Libraries as Community Hubs for Citizen Science

This award recognizes librarians and library staff who have demonstrated a foundational understanding of citizen science and how to make their library a community hub for citizen science.

**Upon completion of the Foundation of Citizen Science module, librarians can complete this training module to earn professional development credits from the Medical Library Association.**



### Building Data Literacy Through Community and Citizen Science

This award recognizes citizen scientists who have applied their skills in data literacy to citizen science projects and can use their skills to help others engage with citizen science projects.



### Teaching in Higher Education with Citizen Science

The "Teaching in Higher Education with Citizen Science" badge is awarded to faculty within higher education institutions who have demonstrated proficiencies in incorporating and implementing citizen science programming into their professional practice.



# Program Overview



## Data Ethics for Practitioners

The "Data Ethics for Practitioners" badge is awarded to practitioners and leaders of participatory science projects, including citizen science and community science projects, who have demonstrated an ability to "think like an ethicist."



## Equitable and Inclusive Practices for Project Design

The "Equitable and Inclusive Practices for Project Design" badge is awarded to practitioners and leaders of large-scale participatory science projects who are able and willing to address the unique challenges of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility. When large-scale projects adopt inclusive, equitable, and accessible practices, they can then support diversity and broaden participation.



## One Million Acts of Science

In the spirit of collective achievement and scientific exploration, the "One Million Acts of Science" badge honors dedicated volunteers who contribute to the collective goal of completing one million scientific acts during Citizen Science Month (April 2024) via the SciStarter platform.



## SciStarter Ambassador

The SciStarter Ambassador badge is awarded to individuals who have completed the necessary training and demonstrated their commitment to promoting citizen science initiatives in their communities. As a SciStarter Ambassador, you will champion, connect, and facilitate citizen science activities, leveraging resources from SciStarter and local community organizations.



# Foundations of Citizen Science

The “Foundations of Citizen Science” badge is awarded to citizen scientists who have translated their curiosity into impact through their demonstration of foundational citizen science skills and their contribution to advancing scientific research on the SciStarter platform.

## Skills and Competencies Recognized

Data Analysis

Data Entry

Information Gathering

Questioning Skills

The recipient of this badge has demonstrated all of the following foundational citizen science skills/competencies within the SciStarter platform and obtained a score of 80% or better via traditional assessment:

- Recognize how citizen science can address real-world challenges and questions.
- Elaborate on how participation in citizen science projects benefits the scientific community and society.
- Recognize high-level eligibility requirements for those who can contribute to citizen science projects.
- Identify, explore, and access one or more citizen science projects.
- Articulate the purpose of SciStarter, and how the platform can be used by citizen scientists and research scientists to connect curiosity with impact.
- Perform the necessary steps to participate in and contribute to one or more citizen science projects.
- Perform the necessary steps to find and bookmark projects on the SciStarter platform.



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## Watch Me Learning Services

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## Micro-credential Multiverse

<https://www.microcredentialmultiverse.com>

## Advisors

### Robin Salthouse

Retired Librarian

### Tara Cox

National Girls Collaborative Project

### Margie Sheppard

NNLM - MidContinental Region



University Office of Evaluation and Educational Effectiveness  
Office of Equity and Inclusion

Arizona State University

## Funding

This project is funded by the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, under Cooperative Agreement number UG4LM012344 with the University of Utah, Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library.



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**Prerequisite**  
Foundations of  
Citizen Science



# Libraries as Community Hubs

## For Citizen Science

The “Libraries as Community Hubs for Citizen Science” badge is awarded to librarians and library staff who have demonstrated a commitment to citizen science and the requisite skills necessary for advancing scientific research through community-centered library programming and services.

## Skills and Competencies Recognized

Evidence-based Practices

Library and Information Services

Interdisciplinary Teaching

Training and Development

Information Literacy

Library Services

Communication

Library Instruction

Lifelong Learning

Teaching

The recipient of this badge has demonstrated all of the following skills associated with utilizing libraries as community hubs and obtained a score of 80% or better via traditional assessment:

- Recognize why engaging the public in citizen science is a critical component of library life-long learning efforts.
- Identify the benefits of turning your library into a community hub for citizen science.
- Identify strategies and tools for selecting and aligning the right citizen science programs with your community's interests or concerns.
- Identify resources (including health and medical resources) to introduce, supplement, and support citizen science efforts in your community.
- Identify resources and strategies to train staff to recruit and sustain patron engagement in citizen science.

Visit [SciStarter.org/training](https://SciStarter.org/training) to learn more and get started



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**Prerequisite**  
Foundations of  
Citizen Science



# Building Data Literacy

## Through Community and Citizen Science

The "Building Data Literacy Through Community and Citizen Science" badge is awarded to citizen scientists who applied their skills in data literacy to citizen science projects and can use their skills to help others engage with citizen science projects.

## Skills and Competencies Recognized

Data Literacy

Data-driven Decision-making

Critical Thinking

Data Analysis

The recipient of this badge has demonstrated all of the following skills associated with applying their knowledge of data literacy to citizen science projects:

- Articulate how citizen science benefits science and society.
- Describe data literacy and how it can help you make better decisions.
- Differentiate the types of data collected and used by scientists and citizen science participants.
- Critically interpret data-rich graphs and charts.
- Explain how data quality impacts the credibility of scientific conclusions.

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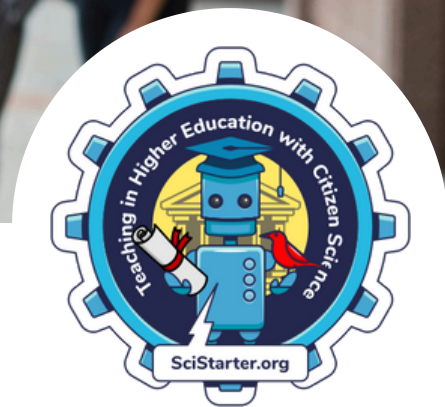
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# Teaching in Higher Education

## with Citizen Science

The "Teaching in Higher Education with Citizen Science" badge is awarded to faculty within higher education institutions who have demonstrated proficiencies in incorporating and implementing citizen science programming into their professional practice.

## Skills and Competencies Recognized

Constructivism

Experiential Learning

Experiential Education

Formative and Summative Assessments

The recipient of this certification has achieved the following learning outcomes associated with the application and inclusion of citizen science within the context of higher education:

- Identify the benefits of including citizen science experiences in your courses.
- Identify the utility of citizen science from the perspective of multiple learning theories and effective pedagogical approaches to undergraduate learning.
- Select citizen science projects that align with your course learning objectives.
- Select assessment approaches and tools (for teaching and research) that align with your chosen citizen science projects and course learning objectives.
- Recognize the importance of alignment between pedagogy, learning objectives, assignment activities/projects, and assessment of learning outcomes.
- Identify resources and strategies that will help prepare students in citizen science.

Visit [SciStarter.org/training](https://SciStarter.org/training) to learn more and get started



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# Data Ethics for Practitioners

The “Data Ethics for Practitioners” badge is awarded to practitioners and leaders of participatory science projects, including citizen science and community science projects, who have demonstrated an ability to “think like an ethicist.”

## Skills and Competencies Recognized

Data Governance

Data Integrity

The recipient of this certification has demonstrated the following data ethics skills and obtained a score of 80% or better via traditional, online assessment:

- Distinguish roles and ethical obligations of project leaders, participants, and partners in participatory science projects.
- Identify how ethical tensions arise in participatory science projects.
- Recognize the obligations associated with ethical principles in the context of participatory science projects.
- Analyze ethical tensions related to data integrity, report-outs, recompense, and report-backs in participatory science projects.
- Recognize how data governance structures can concentrate or diffuse decision-making power.



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# Equitable and Inclusive Practices for Project Design

The "Equitable and Inclusive Practices for Project Design" badge is awarded to practitioners and leaders of large-scale participatory science projects who are able and willing to address the unique challenges of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility. When large-scale projects adopt inclusive, equitable, and accessible practices, they can then support diversity and broaden participation.

## Skills and Competencies Recognized

Diversity Awareness

Stakeholder Engagement

Self-Awareness

Intercultural Competence

Decision-Making

Self-Directed Learning

Data Governance

Leadership

**+ 5 additional skills**

The recipient of this certification has demonstrated all of the following skills associated with leading Inclusive, Diverse, Equitable, Accessible, Large-scale (IDEAL) Participatory Science projects and obtained a score of 80% or better via traditional assessment:

- Recognize the influence and limitations of one's positionality (social identities, lived experiences, etc.) on project design, implementation, and subsequent engagement.
- Recognize best practices for collecting, analyzing, and using data about participant engagement to inform diversity goals.
- Identify ways to increase diverse representation in project governance.
- Identify ways to create reciprocity between projects and participants.
- Identify ways to "center at the margins" by adjusting projects to perspectives of identity groups currently and/or historically underserved by science.
- Recognize the value of committing to a long-term, iterative cycle of sustained work.
- Identify ways to plan and build capacity for practices that promote inclusion, equity, and/or accessibility.

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## Funding

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## One Million Acts of Science

In the spirit of collective achievement and scientific exploration, the "One Million Acts of Science" badge honors dedicated volunteers who contribute to the collective goal of completing one million scientific acts during Citizen Science Month (April 2024) via the SciStarter platform. By engaging with and contributing to SciStarter's Affiliate projects - and effectively linking these contributions - volunteers showcase their exceptional dedication to advancing scientific knowledge and harnessing the power of the community for substantial impact. This badge celebrates their crucial role in driving a global movement toward a deeper understanding of our world, acknowledging their contributions as pivotal to the fabric of citizen science.

### Skills and Competencies Recognized

Data Collection	Data Analysis	Critical Thinking	Digital Literacy	Detail Oriented
Collaboration	Scientific Literacy	Problem Solving	Communication	

The recipient of the "One Million Acts of Science" badge has demonstrated a comprehensive understanding and commitment to advancing scientific research during citizen science on the SciStarter platform, meeting the following criteria within the designated timeframe of Citizen Science Month (April 2024):

- Successfully create or log into an existing SciStarter account, showcasing the ability to navigate and utilize the platform for citizen science engagement.
- Identify and select one or more Affiliate projects on SciStarter by utilizing the SciStarter portal or Affiliate portal or employing the Project Finder's advanced search feature to filter for Affiliate projects. This demonstrates an understanding of how to locate and engage with projects that contribute to the collective goal of One Million Acts of Science.
- Follow detailed instructions to correctly link a SciStarter account with the selected Affiliate project's account, ensuring that contributions are accurately recorded and attributed, reflecting an awareness of the importance of data integrity in citizen science.
- Actively participate in and contribute to the chosen citizen science project(s) between April 1 and April 30, 2024, demonstrating a commitment to contributing to scientific research and understanding the collaborative effort required to achieve a significant milestone.

Visit [SciStarter.org/citizensciencemonth](https://SciStarter.org/citizensciencemonth) to learn more and get started!



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## Editors

### SciStarter team members, including:

Daniel Arbuckle, Darlene Cavalier, Emma Giles, Roland Moundalak, Caroline Nickerson and Kevin Ripka.

## Funding

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## SciStarter Ambassador

The SciStarter Ambassador badge is awarded to individuals who have completed the necessary training and demonstrated their commitment to promoting citizen science initiatives in their communities. As a SciStarter Ambassador, you will champion, connect, and facilitate citizen science activities, leveraging resources from SciStarter and local community organizations.

### Skills and Competencies Recognized

Community Outreach

Event Planning

Science Communication

Leadership

Curiosity

Resource Management

#### Learning Outcomes:

1. Determine how to perform the primary roles of a SciStarter Ambassador by leveraging resources from SciStarter and relationships with your local library and other community organizations.
2. Recognize the importance of SciStarter Ambassadors in furthering citizen science initiatives in communities across the country.
3. Identify strategies and resources for planning and hosting citizen science events that fit your community's needs and interests.

In addition to meeting the following requirements associated with the SciStarter Ambassador badge, recipients of this award have submitted a SciStarter Ambassador Application and Commitment Form, successfully passed a background check administered by Arizona State University, and participated in at least two citizen science events per year.

Additionally, recipients of the SciStarter Ambassador Badge have completed the following activities:

- Successfully complete the [Foundations of Citizen Science](#) training course and earn the corresponding badge.
- Complete the SciStarter Ambassador training program, including
- Lesson 1: Champions of Change: Understanding the Power of Citizen Science
- Lesson 2: From Past to Present: Libraries as Catalysts for Citizen Science
- Lesson 3: Supporting Community Connections as a SciStarter Champion
- Lesson 4: Bridging Communities and Science as a SciStarter Connector
- Lesson 5: Facilitating Citizen Science Engagement

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# Frequently Asked Questions

## **I earned a digital badge; now what?**

SciStarter offers a variety of citizen science programs aligned with different educational contexts and communities. After completing one or more programs listed on SciStarter's training page, your digital badge will be automatically added to your SciStarter profile. Additionally, an email will be sent to the email address associated with your SciStarter account with instructions on how to claim your digital badge and your digital badge backpack. The SciStarter digital badge backpack makes it easy for you to collect, organize, showcase, and share all of your digital badges from one place.

## **What are digital badges?**

SciStarter leverages Canvas Credentials (Formerly, Badgr) to award digital badges to citizen scientists who complete one or more training programs. The Canvas Credentials system enables issuers like SciStarter to award and manage a standardized type of digital badge called an "Open Badge". A digital badge is a visual symbol of accomplishment. They can be awarded for any definable achievement and earned in many learning environments, games, or workplaces. An Open Badge is a specialized type of digital badge that contains verifiable metadata about achievements aligned with a common data format, the "Open Badges Specification". Because they follow an open standard, recipients can combine badges from various sources into collections within their digital badge backpack. When shared, any compatible system can instantly verify these badges to ensure they are trustworthy representations of their earner's experience and skills.

## **Learn more about Open Badges**

## **Why would I want to earn a digital badge?**

A digital badge is a unique, digital token representing skills and achievements you demonstrate while engaging in citizen science projects on the SciStarter platform. After unlocking and claiming your digital badge, awards can be shared on a variety of websites, including social websites like Facebook, X, or LinkedIn and included in portfolios as certificates. Sharing your digital badge can help you get recognized for your achievements and celebrate your love of citizen science!

Each award is private, secure, verifiable, and embedded with data making them uniquely yours. Digital badges also help you discover new opportunities for recognition as they become available by the SciStarter team or tens of thousands of other digital badge issuers worldwide using Canvas Credentials.

## **Learn more about Digital Badges**



### How do I learn SciStarter digital badges?

Learners can earn SciStarter badges by engaging with the SciStarter platform. Once the badge criteria are met, a digital badge will be awarded to you, recognizing your achievement. For example, once all the requirements have been met for the "Foundations of Citizen Science" badge, it will automatically be awarded to you through the SciStarter platform. You will also receive an email with instructions on claiming, managing, and sharing your award.

**[Visit SciStarter.org to learn more!](https://SciStarter.org)**

### What is Canvas Credentials?

Organizations worldwide use the Canvas Credentials system to create branded learning ecosystems that reward their communities with skill-aligned digital credentials, stackable learning pathways, and portable learner records that recognize every achievement. Canvas Credentials (formerly Badgr) wrote the book on digital badging; visit the Canvas Credentials website for more information about how you can get started!

**[Learn more about Canvas Credentials](#)**

### How do I log into my Canvas Credentials Account?

Your SciStarter badges will be accessible, viewable, and shareable via your SciStarter dashboard. Each badge award is issued by SciStarter and backed by the Canvas Credentials platform - a private and secure network of digital awards that includes SciStarter and tens of thousands of other verified badge issuers worldwide.

After you have been awarded your first badge, you will receive an email with instructions on how to claim your free digital badge backpack from Canvas Credentials. When logging into the system for the first time, use the same email address you used to create your SciStarter Account. Any badges earned after you have created your Canvas Credentials account will automatically appear on the SciStarter Platform and your Canvas Credentials Backpack.

If you are experiencing challenges logging into your Canvas Credentials account, please reach out to the customer success team at Instructure.

**[Visit the Canvas Credentials website to get started for free!](#)**





### **What can I do with my digital badges?**

Earning a digital badge is the first step to unlocking opportunities beyond that learning experience. Once earned, digital badges are managed, organized, and shared from the Canvas Credentials platform to networks of your choosing, including LinkedIn, X, Facebook, and more! When digital badges are connected to skills taxonomies (like Lightcast), digital badges can be used to explore opportunities related to your skill-aligned awards.

### **Learn more about sharing your digital badge**

### **Where can I go for support if I'm having trouble with my digital badge?**

Canvas Credentials (formerly, Badgr) wrote the book on digital badges; if you encounter any challenges associated with your Canvas Credentials account, please visit the Instructure support page to contact their team or explore the Canvas Credentials knowledge base. The Instructure team also offers live support to help you on your learning journey.

### **Visit the Instructure Knowledge Base and Support Portal**

### **How can I connect my Canvas Credentials account to a different email address?**

Your lifelong learning journey will likely include collecting digital badges from various learning experiences (including SciStarter). You can manage your digital badges from your free digital badge backpack on the Canvas Credentials platform. Additionally, you can associate one or more email addresses with your Canvas Credentials account; visit the Canvas Credentials knowledge base to learn more about adding or removing additional email addresses from your Canvas Credentials account.

### **Managing Your Canvas Credentials Account**

### **How will Canvas Credentials use my data?**

Canvas Credentials (owned by Instructure) actively takes all precautions necessary to ensure the safety and protection of our user data. In addition to their express commitment to ensuring your privacy, their regional data centers store user data in compliance with GDPR, CCPA, and other privacy regulations locally within your country of access.

### **Read the Canvas Credentials Terms of Service**



### **What does the information in the badge description mean?**

The information included in your award is uniquely yours. Every digital badge contains required information, like a branded badge image, badge name, earning criteria, issuer information, a unique badge recipient identifier, and issue date. Badges may also include optional data, like links to evidence, skills, standards alignment, and tags. This information gives those with whom the badge is shared important information about your achievement and the SciStarter program you participated in - increasing its value and relevance.

### **How can I use the "skills" section of my badge?**

Some of the digital badges awarded by SciStarter have been aligned with skills captured in Lightcast's extensive skills database. Every skill has a unique page that includes related skills, job posting data, job posting trends, and live job postings. This valuable connection with workforce data provides you and those with whom you share the badge with more information about the skills connected to your learning achievement.

### **Learn more about Lightcast skills**

### **How can I print my digital badge as a certificate?**

Your learning achievement can be printed and shared as a high-quality print certificate. Print certificates are easy to share, independently verifiable, and communicate your achievement's rigor and value. Embedded on each certificate is a scannable QR code that verifies the authenticity of your digital award when scanned. After earning a digital badge from SciStarter, claim your digital badge backpack and access your print certificate through each awarded badge page.

### **Learn more about printing badges as a certificate**

### **Does it cost me any money to create or maintain my Badgr account?**

Your digital badges can be stored, managed, and shared for free - forever. Canvas Credentials has partnered with Mozilla to offer industry-leading digital badge storage and management services for the lifetime of the badges issued at no cost.

### **Learn more about the Canvas Credentials Backpack**

# Get Involved

Connect with the SciStarter Digital Badging Program



## For Learners

- Log on and engage in exciting and important citizen science projects.
- Earn digital badges and have your growing skills validated and recognized.
- Share your digital badges online to showcase your contribution to citizen science.
- Use your verified award to qualify for and explore new opportunities.



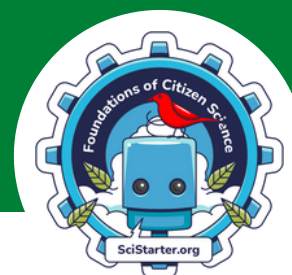
## For Facilitators and Educators

- Develop and lead meaningful citizen science programs quickly and seamlessly.
- Bring your learning community up to speed on critical citizen science opportunities.
- Introduce credible, foundational training for your learning community.



## For Organizations

Introduce your learning community to citizen science by connecting the "**Foundations of Citizen Science**" badge with your own learning experiences or pathways.



## For Partners

Create a branded and personalized experience for your program like the National Library of Medicine has done with the "**Libraries as Community Hubs for Citizen Science**" badge.







**"Only when our  
clever brain and  
our human heart  
work together in  
harmony can we  
achieve our true  
potential."**

**- JANE GOODALL**

**PRIMATOLOGIST / EDUCATOR**

**VISIT**

**[SCISTARTER.ORG/TRAINING](https://scistarter.org/training)**

**TO LEARN MORE  
AND GET STARTED**