SciStarter

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

Science we can do together.



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

Training and Badge Series is Produced by

SciStarter
https://www.scistarter.org

Watch Me Learning Services
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In collaboration with subject matter experts and funders as acknowledged in pages to follow.





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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 Foundations 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



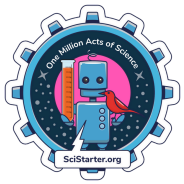
Data Ethics for Practitioners

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) 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.

Visit SciStarter.org/training to learn more and get started

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Office of Equity and Inclusion

Arizona State University

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Connect with our team at info@SciStarter.org



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 the impact of engaging communities in scientific research.
- Differentiate citizen science from other science engagement opportunities.
- Examine how libraries can serve as hubs for citizen science
- Identify SciStarter's tools and support to effectively plan, promote, and facilitate citizen science awareness and participation in a library setting.
- Determine which citizen science activities align with library offerings to provide engaging, hands-on learning experiences for users of all ages.
- Create a strategy to ensure the long-term success and growth of citizen science initiatives within a library.

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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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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.

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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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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) 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):

- 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, demonstrating a commitment to contributing to scientific research and understanding the collaborative effort required to achieve a significant milestone.

Visit SciStarter.org/citizensciencemonth to learn more and get started

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https://www.scistarter.org

Micro-credential Multiverse
https://www.microcredentialmultiverse.com

Editors

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

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Prerequisite
Foundations of Citizen Science

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

Visit SciStarter.org/training to learn more and get started

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is citizen science?

Citizen science is when volunteers help scientists by collecting, analyzing, or reporting data —usually remotely—across many fields, from astronomy to zoology. These large-scale efforts enable discoveries that individual researchers could not achieve on their own.

Who should take the SciStarter trainings?

Anyone interested in learning more about citizen science can take our trainings. Some are tailored to specific audiences, such as librarians or practitioners, but most are open to the general public.

Why does SciStarter offer these trainings?

SciStarter's mission is to help people learn about, participate in, and contribute to real science. These trainings provide foundational knowledge that builds confidence and encourages continued engagement in citizen science.

How long does it take to complete the trainings?

Completion times range from 30 minutes to two hours, depending on the training.

Are any trainings available in other languages?

The "Foundations of Citizen Science" and "Building Data Literacy Through Community and Citizen Science" trainings are available in Spanish.

How often are new trainings added?

There's no formal schedule. New trainings are developed with partners to address timely instructional needs.

How can I provide feedback on the Foundations of Citizen Science Training?

Please complete the survey here: **https://forms.gle/BU9mHtfMrL7fCRuEA**

What are digital badges and open badges?

A digital badge is a visual symbol of accomplishment. An Open Badge is a specialized type of digital badge that contains verifiable metadata about achievements aligned with the "Open Badges Specification." When shared, compatible systems can instantly verify these badges to ensure they are trustworthy representations of your experience and skills. Learn more about Open Badges: **https://openbadges.org/**.



Why would I want to earn a digital badge?

Digital badges showcase your learning, skills, and achievements. They can be downloaded or shared on social media, portfolios, and websites to highlight your accomplishments. Each award is private, secure, and verifiable.

Why do I need a SciStarter account to earn a badge?

Your free SciStarter account allows us to verify your participation in SciStarter Affiliate projects—partner projects that are often required for training and badge completion. By following the instructions on each project page while signed in, you ensure your contributions are properly tracked and credited, which is essential for earning certain badges.

How can I share my badge on social media?

Once you earn a badge, you'll receive an automated email from SciStarter with direct links to share your accomplishment. Simply click the social media icons in the email to post your badge on platforms like X (Twitter), Facebook, or Instagram. You can also click the LinkedIn button to add the badge directly to the "Licenses & Certifications" section of your LinkedIn profile, showcasing your achievement to your professional network.

What skills can I develop, and how are they shown in my badge?

Each training is designed to help you build specific skills and competencies, which are mapped to **Lightcast's Open Skills Library**. When you earn a badge, these skills are embedded in its metadata, making them visible to employers and educators. You can also explore related skills, job trends, and career opportunities through Lightcast—adding professional value to your achievement.

What does the information in the badge description mean?

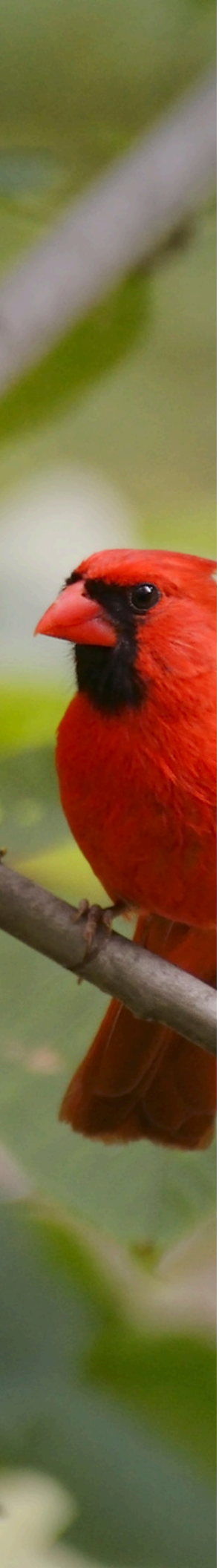
Your badge includes detailed, verifiable information about your accomplishment. It lists the badge name, the criteria you met to earn it, the issuing organization, your unique recipient ID, and the date it was awarded. Some badges may also include links to evidence of your work, the skills you demonstrated, relevant standards, and searchable tags—all of which help others understand the value of your achievement.

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

If you have issues accessing or managing your badge, contact SciStarter at **info@scistarter.org**.

Where can I find all of SciStarter's trainings?

Visit **https://SciStarter.org/training**.



Who created the trainings and badges?

Award-winning instructional designers from Arizona State University, experts from SciStarter, advisors, and technical teams, among others, created these trainings and badges. Subject matter experts and funders are acknowledged on each badge page and this SciStarter Citizen Science Digital Badging Program Overview.

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

TO LEARN MORE AND GET STARTED