Acts of Science: Connected

Info Session

Prepare for April!
Citizen Science Month

February 17, 2026

Agenda

- Citizen Science & SciStarter
- **2.50 Million Acts of Science**!
- *Acts of Science: Connected*
- Project Demo and Open Discussion



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Citizen Science is Serious Science

A global movement that enables people from all walks of life to contribute to real scientific research in collaboration with scientists.

Anytime, from anywhere.

Participatory Research, Community Science, Neighborhood Science, Civic Science, Crowdsourcing

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Share out!

What is your familiarity with citizen science?

1- I'm entirely new! Tell me how to get started!

3 - I participate in citizen science

5 - I facilitate citizen science programs

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A go-to resource for volunteers, scientists, facilitators (librarians/staff), and researchers.



Create your free account: SciStarter.org/login

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Use SciStarter to:

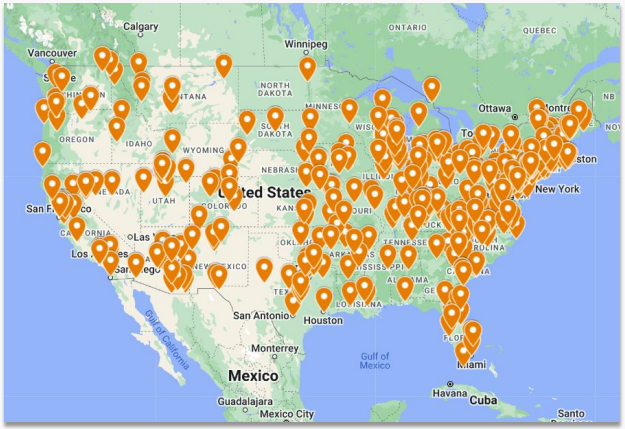
- Find and save projects or events
- Plan and promote your own event
- Complete free training modules
- Create lists of projects for groups to use
- Track impact through participation
- Engage communities in real research!

Create your free account: SciStarter.org/login

Citizen & Community Science Library Network

1200 strong... and counting!

- ❏ Free, online training tutorials for library staff and volunteers.
- ❏ Guides to plan events and build/circulate citizen science kits.
- ❏ Virtual professional development events.
- ❏ Turnkey and customizable resources.
- ❏ Peer-to-peer network.
- ❏ Technical, programming and promotional support.



Create your free SciStarter account, then join the Network!

SciStarter.org/go/library-network

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Citizen Science Month

Each April, we celebrate and amplify this work.

A Global Celebration of Public Participation in Scientific Research

- Highlights people, projects, and outcomes
- Invites new audiences to participate
- Recognizes collective impact
- Anyone can participate, no experience needed.

CITIZEN SCIENCE MONTH APRIL 2026



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April 2026: A Shared Goal

2.50 Million Acts of Science

- A collective participation goal
- Aligned with **America's 250th Birthday**
- Celebrates discovery, service, and impact



Every contribution—big or small—counts.

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What Is an Act of Science?

Every Act during April counts toward the shared goal.

An **Act of Science** is a real contribution to scientific research.

Examples:

- Joining a citizen science project
- Attending or hosting an event
- Collecting outdoor data
- Classifying images or sounds
- Participating in live science activities
- Joining Acts of Science: connected programs



Spot Animals in Camera Traps



Play Online Games to Help NASA Scientists



Upload Pictures of Nature



Share Air Quality Observations

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Signature Event – *Acts of Science: Connected*

New in 2026!

- A flagship virtual event series
- People participate together, at the same time
- Guided by project scientists
- Focused on a featured research project
- Passive Program options are available
- Take home resources to continue engagement

Participate from home or at a local gathering.

Note: Acts of Science: Connected *is one way to participate. All citizen science projects and events in April count.*

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APR 2

Offered at:

2 PM ET

9 PM ET

Zoom



Credit: NASA Image Library

What's the weather like on Mars? *Do NASA Science LIVE!*

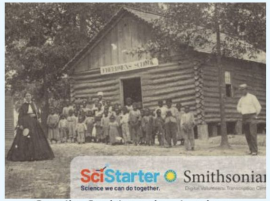
APR 10

Offered at:

2 PM ET

6 PM ET

Zoom



Credit: Smithsonian Institute

Voices of Freedom: Transcribing the Freedmen's Bureau with the Smithsonian

APR 16

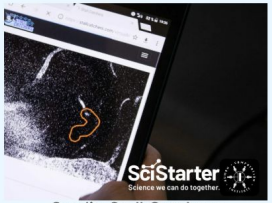
Offered at:

2 PM ET

6 PM ET

9 PM ET

Zoom



Credit: Stall Catchers

Game Night for Science: Play Stall Catchers Online

Featuring different topics each week!

APR 22

Offered at:

11 AM ET

6 PM ET

Zoom



Credit: Snapshot Wisconsin

Earth Day Animal Spot-A-Thon, *Do NASA Science LIVE!*

APR 29

Offered at:

6 PM ET

9 PM ET

Zoom



Comets, Clues, and Our Cosmic Story, *Do NASA Science LIVE!*

Acts of Science: Connected! Host Guide

What it is

A **free, turnkey live-streamed + in-person event series** from SciStarter and Arizona State University that invites communities to participate together in real scientific research during **Citizen Science Month**.

What hosting looks like

You stream a **2-hour live Zoom event** into your space. A project scientist introduces the research, shows participants how to contribute, and engages them in real time as they work together.

Why it benefits your community

Acts of Science: Connected brings people of all ages (best for **13+**) together around meaningful, hands-on activities—building curiosity, connection, and civic pride while contributing to a national goal of **2.5 million Acts of Science** in celebration of **America's 250th birthday**.

No experience or special equipment required—just a device and internet.

You provide the space. We provide the science!

Smithsonian
Digital Volunteers: Transcription Center

AMERICA 250

NASA Grantee

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Event Schedule

Before

- Choose and register for one or more *Acts of Science: Connected* event.
- (Optional) Recruit a local Ambassador
- Reserve a room with screen, audio, internet, and seating
- List your event at: SciStarter.org/add-event
- Promote using the Event Toolkits

TIP: Encourage staff and registrants to complete the free **Foundations of Citizen Science** training before event.

During

- Events run **120 minutes**; hosts may join or leave the Zoom as schedules allow. **Before guests enter:** Final test Zoom/internet/audio.
- Welcome participants, offer refreshments, play What is Citizen Science?
- **10 min prior:** Zoom in.
- **During:** Encourage questions, assign person to post Qs in Zoom chat, support participation as needed.
- *Optional: "Raise hand" to turn video or audio on so all locations and can see and hear your team!*

After

- Reflect with attendees, share takeaways, and collect any remaining questions to share with info@SciStarter.org
- Encourage continued participation at **SciStarter.org**
- Report **Acts of Science** and complete the post-event survey
- Libraries & Ambassadors: find more at SciStarter.org/library and SciStarter.org/ambassador

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Acts of Science: Connected

- Virtual events: One featured project per week; we produce the virtual event you'll stream into your in-person gathering via Zoom.
- Professional Development (tutorials, guides, webinars…like this one!)
- Event hosting guides, promotional toolkits (we'll promote your event, too)
- Printable takeaways
- Tracking Acts towards the 2.50 Million goal
- Follow ups
- Limited number of $500 event support (Apply by March 1)

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Acts of Science: Connected

Let’s take a tour!

Start here:

SciStarter.org/Connected

This is the main page for the public.

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Acts of Science: In Summary

SciStarter does the heavy lifting!

All you need to do is **apply** to host a satellite event, **invite** your community, **prepare** WiFi and devices, **add** your own creative flare!

Benefits to Facilitators

- Connect your community directly with working scientists.
- Offer **hands-on,** impactful science experiences for all audiences.
- Accelerate scientific research + advancing local STEM learning.
- A limited number of $500 mini-grants are available to support in-person *Acts of Science: Connected* events.

Sign up! & Apply for a Grant

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Let’s try it!

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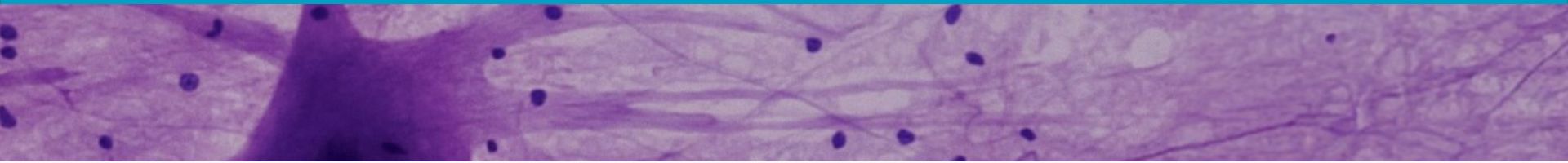
Stall Catchers

April 16 “Game Night for Science”

Are you already a Catcher?

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Let's Practice with Stall



1. **Create** a free **SciStarter** Account: SciStarter.org/login. For participants under 13, an adult should set up a family account.
2. **Sign up** for Stall Catchers on stallcatchers.com with the **same email** you used to sign up for SciStarter.
3. **Start the Stall Catchers "Tour"** to learn how to use the game and go through training videos.
4. **Start** Catching!

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Let's Discuss

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What creative flair can you bring to your Acts of Science: Connected event?

Pre-event ideas

Logistical Strategies

Tracking Results

Reflection Questions

Sustaining Engagement

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How to Prepare Now

- Tell us you want to host a livestream!
- Invite your library staff to get familiar with Citizen Science!
  1) Foundations of Citizen Science Training
  2) Libraries as Community Hubs for Citizen Science Training
  Or 3) Ambassadors Training (all on SciStarter.org/training)
- Join the Network to receive updates
- Next info Session is March 17!
- BY MARCH 1st, apply to host an in-person gathering limited mini grants are available

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