



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

Welcome to Citizen Science Month!

There are many opportunities to participate in Citizen Science Month (April 2021). 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 community 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, and it's a natural fit for virtual programming.

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.



Join us during the month of April!



We're here to help you get started! Here are some examples of how you can bring citizen science to your community during Citizen Science Month and beyond. Citizen science lends itself to virtual events and supports safe social distancing. All of these resources are available for free at CitizenScienceMonth.org.

GETTING STARTED

Download, print and display a poster, flyers and bookmarks. Interactive posters invite participants to share their citizen science experiences. Find these on CitizenScienceMonth.org/Resources.

TAKING ACTION

Host an "Introduction to Citizen Science" event using free, turn-key digital resources designed for newcomers and underrepresented in biomedical research communities. Find those resources on CitizenScienceMonth.org/Resources and SciStarter.org/NLM.

Want SciStarter's help (either with providing a virtual platform, co-hosting or otherwise facilitating the event)? Find resources on the SciStarter blog: blog.SciStarter.org/2020/10/planning-citizen-science-month-2021-april

Host a book club meeting to discuss *The Field Guide to Citizen Science* (TimberPress 2020), written by the experts at SciStarter. Discover materials for this at CitizenScienceMonth.org/Resources.

GOING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

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" on CitizenScienceMonth.org/Resources.

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!
SciStarter.org/events

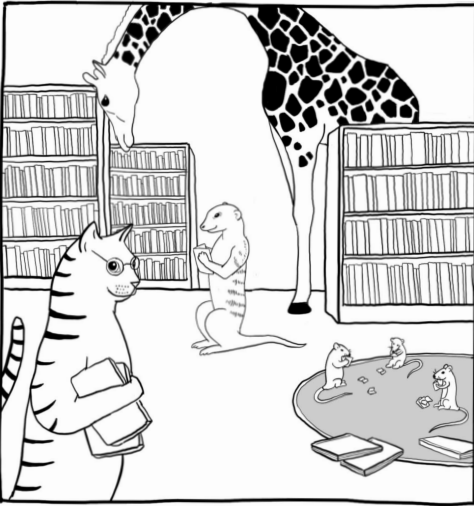
READY TO GET STARTED?

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

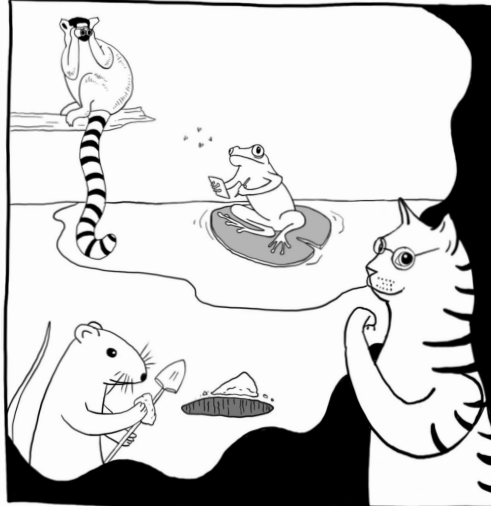
1. Sign up to receive our updates for event facilitators and join one of SciStarter's "Citizen Science Month Office Hours" Zoom calls: CitizenScienceMonth.org/MailingList
2. Think about how you can incorporate projects selected by the National Library of Medicine and resources from SciStarter into your programming: CitizenScienceMonth.org/Resources and SciStarter.org/NLM
3. Add your event to SciStarter: SciStarter.org/Events
4. Want SciStarter's help (with providing a virtual platform, co-hosting or otherwise facilitating the event)? Find resources on the SciStarter blog: blog.SciStarter.org/2020/10/planning-citizen-science-month-2021-april/

Up next are two versions of our Citizen Science Month comic: one for online events and one for in-person events.

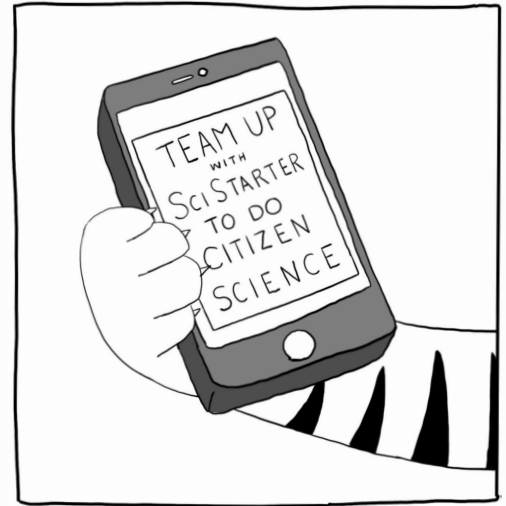
PLAN YOUR OWN (VIRTUAL) CITIZEN SCIENCE EVENT



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 recently began hosting virtual events for library patrons!



She's heard about citizen science, where everyday people can collect, share, and analyze data with researchers to accelerate research.



Carla sees a post about SciStarter.org, which connects people to thousands of citizen science projects, events, tools and resources. Including free resources for Citizen Science Month (CitSciMonth) in April.



She joins one of the weekly office hours offered by SciStarter on Zoom to help people host a CitSciMonth event and learns about the National Library of Medicine's featured citizen science projects on SciStarter.org/NLM.



Carla wants to engage the senior population using her library's digital resources, so she picks Stall Catchers, an online game where volunteers can speed up Alzheimer's research, as her project.



She selects a time and day for her library patrons to join her on Zoom to learn about citizen science and play Stall Catchers, together.



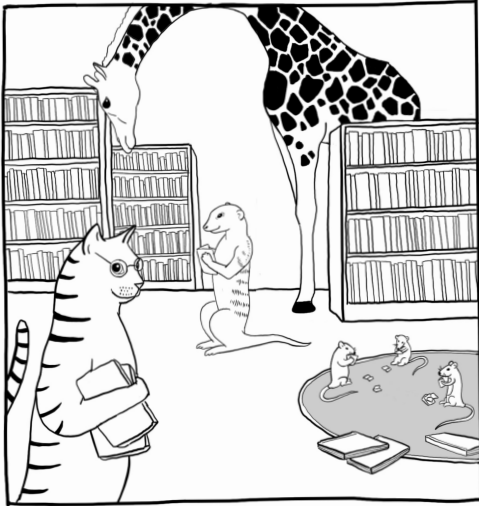
She registers her event on CitizenScienceMonth.org and begins spreading the word! She contacts other community groups and uses free graphic resources from CitizenScienceMonth.org/Resources to promote her event. She even has SciStarter co-host the event and help her with livestreaming her Zoom event to YouTube!



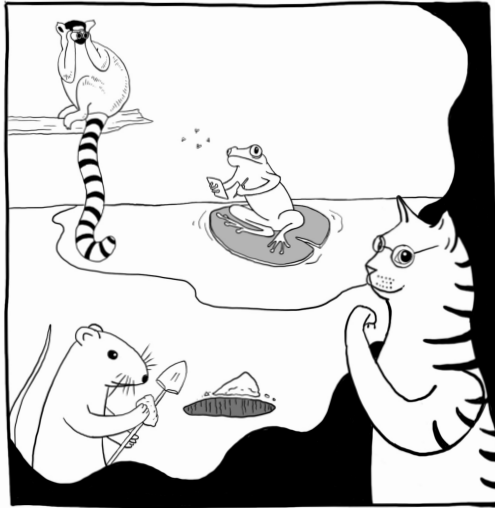
The citizen science event is a hit! People make connections in their community, and the Stall Catchers is grateful for the volunteers moving research forward. Carla is already getting requests to do another event and has begun making citizen science kits for her library as a follow-up activity!

**LEARN MORE ABOUT
CITSCIMONTH, FIND
RESOURCES &
REGISTER YOUR
EVENT:
CITIZENSCIENCEMONTH.ORG**

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.



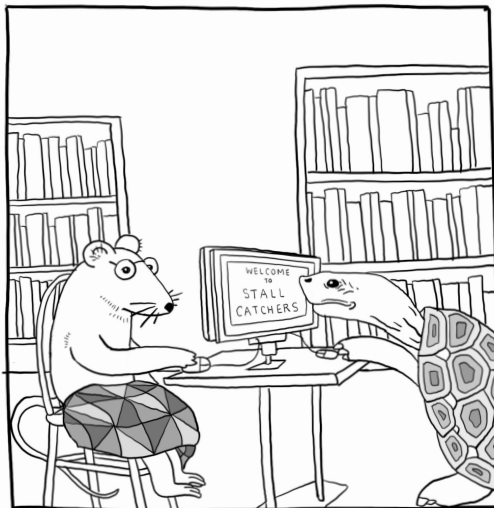
SHE'S HEARD ABOUT CITIZEN SCIENCE, WHERE EVERYDAY PEOPLE COLLECT AND SHARE DATA WITH SCIENTISTS TO ACCELERATE RESEARCH.



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



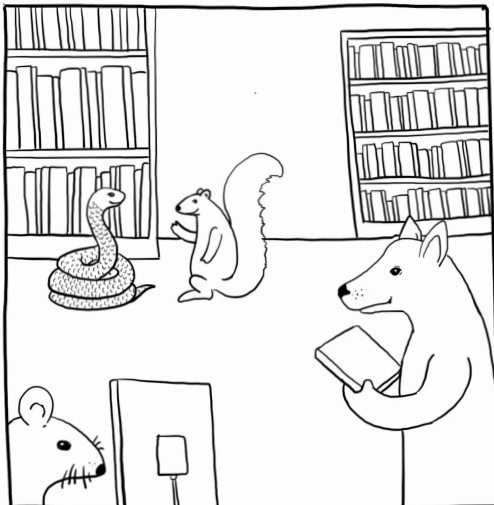
CARLA WANTS TO ENGAGE THE SENIOR POPULATION USING THE DIGITAL RESOURCES AT HER LIBRARY, SO SHE PICKS THE PROJECT STALL CATCHERS, AN ONLINE GAME WHERE VOLUNTEERS CATEGORIZE IMAGES FROM BRAIN STUDIES.



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