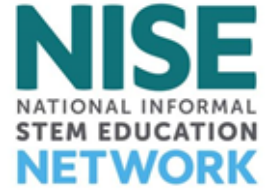


NISE Network Online Workshop

How to Be a Part of 2.50 Million Acts of Science with SciStarter

January 13, 2026



Today's Presenters:

- Emma Giles, Director of Programs and Operations, SciStarter



Welcome! As we wait to get started with today's discussion, please...

Introduce yourself! Type your name, institution, and location into the [Chat Box](#)

Questions? Feel free to type your questions into the [Chat Box](#) at any time throughout the webinar. A selection of questions from the chat and workshop registration will be read aloud by moderators for presenters to answer during the Q&A.

Today's workshop will be recorded; those registered will receive an email when available here: nisenet.org/online-workshop-recordings

See you next time!

Upcoming Online Workshops...

**Youth Programs Co-creating STEM
Engagement Projects**

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

2pm-3pm Eastern / 11am-12pm Pacific



Learn more and register at nisenet.org/events

Emma Giles

**Director of Programs and Operations,
SciStarter**

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The Role of SciStarter

SciStarter is the world's **largest citizen science hub** connecting millions of people to thousands of opportunities to help advance scientific research.

Thousands of vetted projects across:

- NASA & space science
- Environment, weather & climate
- Health & medicine
- Animals and Nature
- History & culture

Trusted by libraries, museums, schools, universities, and community organizations



SciStarter makes it easy for anyone to participate in science that matters to them.



Providing Infrastructure that Builds Capacity

SciStarter provides critical infrastructure for the citizen science field—enabling collaboration, sustaining projects, reducing partner burden, and measuring collective impact across projects and websites, through shared platforms, analytics, trainings, credentials and communities.



1000+ libraries in the **Citizen and Community Science Library Network**



88K +people completed the Foundations training. Our new 3-year program will scale the Library and Ambassadors programs (certified volunteers to amplify SciStarter and citizen science).

Providing Infrastructure that Builds Capacity

Supporting
Scientists,
Researchers,
Facilitators
and the Public.



The SciStarter Ecosystem

Contributors: Daniel Arbuckle, Deron Ash, Trevor Bartone, Darlene Cavalier, Tara Cox, Emma Gilen, Emily Malach, Roland Moundakal, Caroline Nickerson, Kevin Popka, Bob Hershon, Robin Salthouse

SciStarter helps

PROJECT AND EVENT LEADERS

- Amplify projects and events
- Target recruitment through free tools (location, communities, skills, ages, etc) or through SciStarter facilitation partners (libraries, museums, CBOs, etc)
- Create direct connections with volunteers
- Measure collective impact via on-demand data analytics
- Leverage digital and promotional infrastructure
- Find API details: SciStarter.org/API

SciStarter helps

THE PUBLIC

- Gain awareness, confidence and learning
- Access projects, events and tools
- Increase, track, assess and share progress

Searchable
database
of projects & events

Free, popular
training modules
and micro-credits

Communications
multimedia outreach
podcast, blogs, social media,
live events, newsletters, email
millions reached per year

Increasing
participation
by supporting
community facilitators
museums, libraries,
schools, media, CBOs

Tools to
track participation
SciStarter accounts, dashboard,
affiliate projects

scistarter
Science we can do together.

Partner network
to reach diverse
and targeted audiences

ASU, Girl Scouts, NSTA, NASA, NLM, NCGP,
Discover Magazine, Verizon, libraries, STARDNet

Customizable
resources
and turnkey materials
to introduce and
facilitate programming
kit guides, educational resources

SciStarter helps
RESEARCHERS

- View trends and landscape of projects/events/people
- Research participants' motivations, behaviors and learning across projects/websites
- Examine the role of "third spaces" and facilitators in broadening or deepening engagement
- See list of research outcomes: SciStarter.org/research

SciStarter helps
FACILITATORS
librarians, event organizers,
community leaders

- Become community hubs for citizen science
- Develop PD, events, web and promotional resources for their communities



What is Citizen Science?

Citizen science is a way for people to contribute to real scientific research by working alongside scientists.

People participate by:

- Collecting observations
- Analyzing or classifying data
- Playing research-based games
- Joining live science events
- Contributing local knowledge

- ✓ People find projects and events all year long through SciStarter
- ✓ Contributions support active research
- ✓ Scientists rely on public participation to advance discovery

No science background required.

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.



Impact In 2025



NEARLY
**HALF A MILLION
VOLUNTEERS**
contributed to One Million
Acts of Science



VOLUNTEERS WERE INVOLVED
IN OVER
**1000 PROJECTS &
EVENTS**
benefitting scientific
research



A TOTAL OF
**3.06 MILLION
ACTS**
were tallied at the end of the
month

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.

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



**Play Online Games
to Help NASA
Scientists**



**Spot Animals in
Camera Traps**



**Upload Pictures of
Nature**



**Share Air Quality
Observations**

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

Participate from home or at a local gathering.

- Thursday, April 2 @ 2 & 9pm ET
- Friday, April 10 @ 2 & 6 pm ET
- Thursday, April 16 @ 2, 6 & 9pm ET
- Wednesday, April 22 @ 11am & 6pm ET
- Wednesday, April 29 @ 6 & 9pm ET

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



Small
ACTS OF SCIENCE
lead to BIG impact!

JOIN US FROM ANYWHERE!

Register for one or more Acts of Science: Connected virtual livestream events featuring an ongoing citizen science project.

EVENT 1	EVENT 2	EVENT 3
What's the weather like on Mars? Thursday April 2, 2026 USE QR CODE TO REGISTER Help NASA find signs of clouds in the Martian atmosphere.	Transcription Mission Friday April 10, 2026 USE QR CODE TO REGISTER Help transcribe documents in our National Archives to unveil American History.	Game Night for Science Thursday April 16, 2026 USE QR CODE TO REGISTER Play an online game to help accelerate research on Alzheimer's.
Earth Day Animal Spot-A-Thon Wednesday April 22, 2026 USE QR CODE TO REGISTER Help scientists identify as many animals as possible in camera trap images.	Comets, Clues, and our Cosmic Story Wednesday April 29, 2026 USE QR CODE TO REGISTER Explore space on a NASA mission that needs your help!	Join thousands of people, gathered in libraries and museums across the U.S. to learn about the project, do the project together, and ask the scientist questions in a live Q&A!

AMERICA **250** Together we can reach 2.50 million Acts of Science!

Register at SciStarter.org/Connected

What Do *Connected* Events Look Like?

- ***Acts of Science: Connected*** watch parties with hands-on participation (three feature NASA projects and engage NASA Solar System Ambassadors!)
- **Live data collection hours** (nature, weather, night sky)
- **Mass classification events** during livestream to for maximum collective impact
- **Library or museum hubs** host in-person gatherings and stream the virtual event
- **Multi-site community events** happening simultaneously

Citizen Science & America 250

- **SciStarter is an official America 250 partner** and *Acts of Science: Connected* will be promoted by A250 in April
- Acts of Science contribute to America Gives
- Citizen science reflects:
 - Civic participation
 - Innovation
 - Service
 - Collective problem-solving



Ways to Participate

- 1. Join a Project:** Thousands available, anytime
- 2. Join an Event:** Live virtual or in-person including Acts of Science Connected
- 3. Host an Event:** Become a satellite site for *Acts of Science: Connected* or host your own CSM program focused on any project of interest in your community.
- 4. Amplify** Citizen Science Month in newsletters, emails, website, social media, flyers, etc.

Whether five minutes or five hours—every Act counts.

How to Host an *Acts of Science: Connected* Event

**You don't need to know the science.
SciStarter's got you covered.**

Steps:

1. Choose a *Connected* event or featured project
2. Host an in-person gathering
3. Livestream the event
4. Guide participants during the event
5. Report Acts of Science at CitizenScienceMonth.org
6. Distribute printable takeaways to sustain engagement

SciStarter Supports Hosts

Who hosts events: Libraries, Museums & science centers, Schools & universities, Girl Scouts & youth programs, Cafes, Ambassadors, others with access to space.

SciStarter provides:

- Event planning guides
- Promotional templates
- Virtual event production
- Participant instructions
- Simple reporting tools
- \$500 grants (limited #)
- Ongoing support

Hosts provides:

- Meeting space
- Audience
- Devices (when possible)
- A/V large screen (when possible)
- FUN!
- Printed Takeaways
- Promotion (register event at SciStarter.org/add-event)
- Report Acts
- Reply to very brief survey
- Future CitSci programs (encouraged!)



\$500 Event Support Grants

A limited number of **\$500 mini-grants** are available to support in-person Acts of Science: Connected events.

Funds may be used for:

- Supplies and materials
- Space setup
- Technology needs
- Outreach and promotion
- Participant refreshments

Get Involved This April

- Apply to host an *Acts of Science: Connected* event: SciStarter.org/library-acts-of-science-connected-apply
- Indicate interest to be considered for a \$500 event support grant
- Bring Citizen Science Month to your community

Small Acts Lead to Big Impacts

Resources, Reminders and Q&A

NISE Network Related Resources

- Citizen and Community Science
nisenet.org/citizenscience
- America 250
nisenet.org/america250



Citizen Science, Civics, and Resilient Communities

Resources & Opportunities



Learn more and access
the NISE Network's online
digital resources
nisenet.org/browse-topic



Read our monthly newsletter
nisenet.org/newsletter



Past Recordings of Online Workshops
nisenet.org/online-workshop-recordings

Follow NISE Net on social networking
nisenet.org/social



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Thank You



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ASU Center for Innovation in
Informal STEM Learning
Arizona State University

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NATIONAL INFORMAL
STEM EDUCATION
NETWORK

Q & A