

# 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](https://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](https://nisenet.org/events)

**Emma Giles**  
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**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

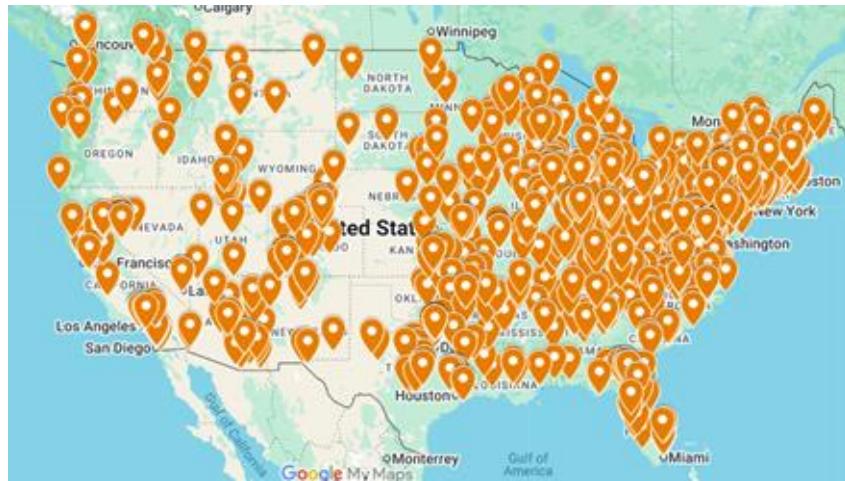
Trusted by libraries, museums, schools, universities, and community organizations



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, Denon Ash, Trevor Bartome, Darlene Cavalier, Tara Cox, Emma Giles, Emily Maletz, Roland Mousalak, Caroline Nickerson, Kevin Ripka, Bob Hirshon, Robin Salthouse



# 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.



# 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



Share Air Quality Observations



Upload Pictures of Nature

# 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.



# 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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://nisenet.org/citizenscience)
- America 250  
[nisenet.org/america250](https://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](https://nisenet.org/browse-topic)



Read our monthly newsletter  
[nisenet.org/newsletter](https://nisenet.org/newsletter)



Past Recordings of Online Workshops  
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# Thank You



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Informal STEM Learning  
Arizona State University

**NISE**  
NATIONAL INFORMAL  
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NETWORK

# Q & A