NGCP Celebrates Citizen Science

April 30, 2024
NGCP Vision

The vision of the National Girls Collaborative Project is to support and create STEM experiences that are as diverse as the world we live in.
Our Goals

Connect + Create + Collaborate

1. Build and sustain a network of advocates to provide equitable and inclusive STEM opportunities.

2. Catalyze equity in STEM from research to practice by providing actionable knowledge that transforms the STEM experience.

3. Increase our collective impact by strengthening organizational effectiveness and enhancing our fiscal sustainability.

NGCP Celebrates Citizen Science
NGCP Resources

• National Webinars
  o Monthly on relevant topics, speakers include educators, researchers, authors, and diverse STEM professionals

• Monthly Newsletter
  o National events, STEM resources for girls and youth, professional development opportunities for educators, and research and reports

• NGCP Website
  o Exemplary Practices pages on Engaging Girls in STEM and Access and Equity, blog posts, and statistics and research related to girls and women in STEM
NGCP Celebrates Citizen Science

April 30, 2024
What is citizen science?

It is also referred to as community science, participatory research, and open science.

It is a global movement that enables people of all ages with diverse experiences to collaborate with scientists by participating in real scientific research.

It’s how people can make an impact on issues they care about!
Citizen science projects range from astronomy and ecology to biology and environmental science.

Participants might…

- Help track bird migrations
- Monitor water and air quality
- Identify celestial objects
- Take images of nature
- Classify images from space telescopes
- Count pollinators
- Contribute biological samples
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Take a photo of a plant and upload it to the INaturalist app.</th>
<th>B. Identify mosquito habitats and log data on the Globe Observer App.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.jpg" alt="Image of a person taking a photo of a plant" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.jpg" alt="Image of a person using the Globe Observer app" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Plant a pollinator garden to increase pollinator activity.</td>
<td>D. Test your local tap water and report findings to Crowd the Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3.jpg" alt="Image of a pollinator garden" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.jpg" alt="Image of someone testing tap water" /></td>
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</tbody>
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Citizen Science & STEM Equity

- Accessible, low barrier to entry
- Inclusive of diverse perspectives
- Empowers people to have agency over scientific knowledge
- Enables people to address local challenges
Strengthening STEM Opportunities for Girls

Agency & Choice
Experiential & Hands-on
Collaborative Learning
Real-world relevance
Exposure to role models

THINK LIKE A
CITIZEN SCIENTIST
Citizen and Community Science Library Network

• In partnership with SciStarter and Arizona State University, NGCP supports, scales, and sustains the libraries as community hubs for citizen science program.

• The network has grown to almost 1000 libraries, supporting their users in gaining awareness and access to resources through training, events, and kits.

SciStarter.org/library-network
Resources for Libraries and other CBOS

SciStarter.org/library-resources
Citizen Science and Libraries

Lise Mitchell, Grand Ledge Area District Library, Michigan
Why Science? Why Libraries?

Public Libraries everywhere have a mission to connect with our community.

We use programming to attract community members to the library, engage in them something meaningful, and retain them as patrons.

Science and specifically Citizen Science gives our community the opportunity to learn and contribute in a real way – and it attracts all ages and a broad spectrum of interests.

Libraries provide a safe, neutral zone where curiosity is encouraged.
Science is Strategic

- Citizen Science and [GLADL’s Strategic Plan](#)
  - **Vision Statement [destination]** – Our vision is to provide vibrant resources and inclusive spaces for people to thrive through innovation, education, and entertainment.

- **Goals**
  - #1 Spark Imagination, Joy and Enrichment
  - #2 Promote Learning and Literacy
  - #3 Serve as a Community Connector
Review what you are doing – how science adds value

- **Take Home Crafts** and **In-person Crafts** – adding science twists and highlighting collections - giving crafts a science boost!
- **New Events** – lots of resources to try something new
- **Library of Things** - from science kits to games to practical items that help patrons learn new skills & explore interests
- **Strengthening community partnerships** - both organizations and businesses
Impact on the Library

- Increased Circulation - 21%
  - Increase in Library of Things checkouts
- Patrons – new and updated - 5%
  - Increase in new patrons created online
- Increased awareness
  - Citizen Science Month webpage – highlights events & partnerships
  - Telling your story and getting the word out
Local Science Partners

EATON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Spark Good for Grants

Science Kits for Public Libraries

4-H Busters

Girl Scouts, heart of Michigan
Questions? Feel free to contact me!

Lise Mitchell, Library Director
Grand Ledge Area District Library
131 E. Jefferson
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
517-622-3550
director@gladl.org