Engaging Communities, Advancing Sustainability: Citizen Science Kits in Libraries

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What is a citizen science kit?

“A citizen science kit holds everything needed to gather data for a specific citizen science project. Each kit includes a printed activity guide, helpful tips, and any specialized tools or materials needed to complete the project.”

SciStarter

Citizen Science kits in libraries

- accessible location within communities
- educational resources and knowledgeable staff support
- community gathering points
- established credibility and trustworthiness
- learning experiences and skill development
- inclusivity

The power of citizen science kits

SciStarter and citizen science kits

https://scistarter.org/library-kits

- **The Libraries as Community Hubs for Citizen Science program**
- about the program and participating libraries
- citizen science kits list with detailed programs
- kit feedback survey
- resources for librarians

Project Kits

EXPLORING BIODIVERSITY

Document and identify plants and animals around you.

MEASURING LIGHT IN THE NIGHT

Help gather light pollution data.

OBSERVING POLLINATORS

Identify and count pollinators as they visit flowering plants.

MAPPING MOSQUITO HABITATS

Download the app and help NASA scientists learn about planet Earth.

MONITORING AIR QUALITY

Capture measurements using an AirBeam sensor.

ZOMBEE HUNTING

Is the Zombie Fly attacking bees in your neighborhood?

ASSESSING INDOOR AIR QUALITY

Monitor CO2 levels to determine if ventilation is adequate. Currently beta testing in AZ only.

Measuring light in the night

GLOBE AT NIGHT DATA SH

Check out a kit from your local library. Find project i
submit your data about light pollution to Globe at Ni
SciStarter.org/library-kits/measuring-light-in-t

STEP 1
When did you make your observations?

Observation Date:
(yyyy/mm/dd)

Observation Time:
(24 hour time)

Please make sure the Sun has set at least one hour before you take your measurements.

STEP 2
Where did you make your observations?

Address:

Latitude:

Longitude:

Elevation:

Country:

Location comments (e.g. rural, suburban or urban location; snow cover? Number of streetlights, porchlights or other light sources, such as vending machines, etc. in vicinity; trees or structure in vicinity):

STEP 3
How dark was the sky that night?

On the Globe at Night webform, select the magnitude chart that most closely resembles what you see and click the thumbnail images below the larger magnitude chart. This will load sky views at various magnitudes. The displayed magnitude chart is highlighted on the

corresponding
chart that mo
sky, leave tha

Note: For the
magnitudes 0
magnitudes o

STEP 4
What were sk

Were there ar
was covered
Circle one:
• Clear
• A quarter of
• Half of the s
• More than h

Sky condition
type, directio

STEP 5
Did you use a
check one out
Measuring Lig

SQM reading:

Serial Numbe

STEP 6
What email d
account?

Enter that em
credit for you

Citizen Science Kit Feedback Survey

Thank you for providing us with your feedback about the citizen science kit! Please answer the following questions.

dolores.vrbanic@gmail.com Switch account

Not shared

* Indicates required question

This survey is anonymous. There is no need to sign in to your Google account to take the survey. Your email and Google account are NOT part of your response and are NOT recorded.

Please note: You must reach the end of the survey and select "Submit" or your responses will not be recorded.

Are you 18 or older? *

- Yes
- No

Next

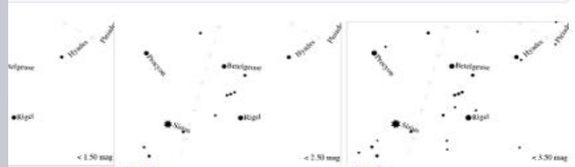
Clear form

ht: Measuring Light Pollution

ut it also wastes energy and money, causes sleep disorders in people, and disrupts the
ess about light pollution by measuring the night sky brightness.

eded, move the location marker to accurately identify your observation

visible stars. See how the magnitude of zero (labeled "Mag 0") has fewer
g 7")? Which image most closely resembles the night sky you observed?



Advantages and disadvantages of citizen science kits

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Increased engagement

Data collection at scale

Cost-effective

Diverse perspectives

Educational opportunities

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Quality control

Limited expertise

Data bias

Coordination and communication

Conclusion

Citizen science kits **empower individuals** to actively **contribute data** and insights, aiding in environmental research and conservation efforts. They **expand the reach** of scientific monitoring, providing a more **comprehensive understanding** of environmental issues. Ultimately, they promote collective action for a healthier planet.

Libraries benefit from citizen science kits by promoting science education, fostering community engagement, and contributing to scientific research. These kits **enhance scientific literacy** and **creativity** while **raising environmental** and civic awareness. They also make valuable resources accessible to a wider audience, aligning with libraries' educational missions.

Would you like to learn how to build your own citizen science kit for your library?

Join us in the workshop: 'Build Your Own Citizen Science Kit for Sustainable Exploration'!

THANK YOU!

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