



Choosing a Citizen Science Project

Training Starter Template

Objectives: All participants in the training will be able to:

- Identify key characteristics needed for their citizen science project
- Determine and discuss the goals of their citizen science project
- Consider strategies to research project ideas
- Figure out how to incorporate youth voice and choice into the citizen science project selection

Total Amount of Time: _____

Number of Participants: _____

Preparation: _____

Materials: _____

Training Opening

- Engage Participants _____ minutes
(Begin with icebreaker/warm-up activity related to the topic.)

- Introduce the Topic _____ minutes
(Motivate participants, show them why the topic is important, and share objectives and agenda.)





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Training Middle

_____ minutes

(Explain the topic in detail, demonstrate the concept and discuss it, and practice and apply the topic.)

- Every project activity should begin with understanding student need. Have participants watch the Click & Go 1 Mini Lesson on Developing a Needs Assessment <https://y4y.ed.gov/y4yclickandgo/developing-a-needs-assessment/1546>. Have them write down one or two specific needs of their students.
- Setting SMART goals will ensure everyone will understand what the project should achieve and help narrow down the possibilities for project ideas. In pairs or small groups, use the Goals section of the planner to write down three goals for the citizen science project based on program and student need. Debrief as a group.
- Encouraging youth voice and choice is an integral part of getting students on board with the project and ensuring that the students will be invested. Thus, choosing a citizen science project means it is necessary to get youth input through such means as facilitating discussions with them or distributing a survey. Consider using *the Planner for Brainstorming* tool from the PBL course to guide discussions or use the *STEM Interest Surveys* to find out student interest.
- Introduce the *Citizen Science Experience Planner* and focus on Step 4: Choosing a citizen science project. Have participants review the tool.
- In pairs or small groups, have participants complete one of the student interest surveys. Then using results from their surveys, have them consider their interests as if they were the interests of their student. Have them use those interest findings combined with identified program needs and then identify what the key characteristics of their potential citizen science project would be. Participants may want to note ideas, suggestions or questions related to the characteristics for future reference. Debrief as a group to note similarities and differences.
- There are a variety of citizen science projects. Have participants explore the Y4Y Citizen Science Links tool or the Learn More Library for Citizen Science for potential project sites to explore. Have participants take notes in the chart under the Research Project Ideas section. *Note to Trainer: If there is limited internet access or limited time, research a few potential project ideas for review and print out sample materials for participants to review or allow participants to do research on their own and continue the rest of the training at another time.*
- Have groups discuss how their project connects to their goals and what 3 steps they would take to ensure that the Citizen science project chosen would met those goals. Provide chart paper so they can record their answers and have them report out as a group.



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Training Wrap-up and Closing

- Summarize and Consolidate _____ minutes
(Connect again to the objectives, check for understanding, discuss questions.)

- Plan Next Steps _____ minutes
(Be specific about application to immediate practice.)

- Closing Comments _____ minutes
(Acknowledge, motivate and inspire.)

Post-training Assessment and Revision

- Check effectiveness of training through formal or informal assessment
- Note changes to make
- Note areas for additional training

