



Fitting Citizen Science Into Your Program

Training Starter Template

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

- Understand the various stages of planning and implementing a successful Citizen Science experience for the program
- Plan ways to integrate Citizen Science activities into the program schedule every day or on a regular basis
- Consider and address potential challenges

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.)

- Ask the participants: What are the stages of doing a project? Discuss the stages of Project-Based Learning. Share the Y4Y PBL Diagram tool found in the Project Based Learning module.
- Ask participants in small groups to brainstorm as many possible responses to this question: What are the specific tasks or activities that would be needed for a successful Citizen Science Project? Record their answers on chart paper or have participants write their responses on post-it notes for sorting later. *Note to Trainer: If a project topic has been selected, then participants can brainstorm ideas according to that project. Consider utilizing the “Choosing a Citizen Science Project” Training Starter prior to this training to help staff to select a project topic to better guide planning.*
- Explain that the training will focus on determining when, how often, and over what period of time Citizen Science will fit into the program schedule.
- Introduce the tool *Citizen Science Experience Planner* and look specifically at Step 2: Making Time for Citizen Science. Have participants review the tool.
- Divide participants into groups based on your program groups (e.g. age groups, content areas, or days of the week). Each group will answer the key questions on the tool posed such as: Estimate Start Date, Estimated End Date, Estimated Months available, Estimated time commitment for data collection, etc. Groups can give feedback.
- Each group will then get a piece of chart paper to map out the section entitled “Citizen Science Project Timeline”. Using the stages and tasks or activities they brainstormed earlier in the session, each group will fill out the chart according to their needs.
- Each group can present and share their Citizen Science project timeline. Debrief as a whole group. Discuss and address potential challenges.





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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

- Formal or informal assessment of effectiveness of training
- Note changes to make
- Note areas for additional training

