



Citizen Science Association

CSA is a membership organization that provides scholars and practitioners unique opportunities to share and co-create best practices in public engagement with scientific research. Founded in 2012, CSA has 4,000+ members in over 80 countries, including organizations like science centers and museums, nature centers, aquariums, planetariums, zoos, botanical gardens, and natural history and children's museums. Membership also includes many educators, scientists, data managers, and individuals without formal science backgrounds whose interests span a wide range of disciplines. These citizen science enthusiasts coordinate over 1 thousand projects that involve over 1 million volunteers and engage millions of other people throughout the world.

2019 Citizen Science Association Conference in Raleigh, NC

On March 13-17, 2019, the world will come to Raleigh to visit the acclaimed North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and to experience the rich cultural, academic, and tourism amenities that the Triangle offers when this cutting-edge science center hosts the third Citizen Science Association international conference. An estimated 1,000 delegates will gather in Raleigh for the conference, and over 10,000 Museum visitors will also participate during the Citizen Science Festival on Saturday, March 17.

The 2019 CSA conference brings to the Museum, Raleigh, and NC prestige and tourism dollars, with the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau estimating potential economic impact of \$1 million. To ensure a successful experience for visitors, the Museum seeks sponsorships to defray a portion of the conference expense. Sponsorship opportunities range from \$2,000 to \$25,000 at the bedrock, bronze, jade, silver, gold and diamond levels and allow partnering sponsors to prominently demonstrate their commitment to promoting science education. Benefits are commensurate with giving levels and may include recognition on the Museum's iconic, 40-foot SECU Daily Planet screen; inclusion in print and electronic materials; and opportunities to address delegates during a keynote session and panel discussions.

Why Citizen Science? Using "the power of the crowd," citizen science boosts science literacy and confidence in science. Environmental sensors and other tools designed and manufactured by NC businesses are critical to citizen science discoveries, which span many disciplines and include:

- Climate change patterns (NOAA's Cooperative Weather Observers)
- Lead in tap water in Flint, Michigan (Flint Water Study)
- Two planets analogous to Jupiter and Saturn around another star (microFUN astronomy project)
- Monarch butterflies migrate 4,000 miles to Mexico (Monarch Watch)

Why Raleigh? NC is considered to be the "Silicon Valley" of citizen science innovation, which last year brought to the state substantial financial investment, including about \$15 million from the National Science Foundation and support from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, the US Geological Survey, and many private sector investors. Each of NC's 100 counties lends equipment for citizen science projects through public libraries, and numerous teachers incorporate citizen science into lesson plans. The state is seen as the birthplace of the environmental justice movement, which relies heavily on citizen science for its success. In addition, the Museum is the most visited and largest natural sciences center in the Southeast, offering numerous citizen science opportunities through its programs and in its facilities.

The innovative character and rich offerings of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and its Nature Research Center have earned the institution a stellar reputation among science centers and museums. The CSA conference will allow Raleigh and the state to showcase this impressive facility and its programs to worldwide science leaders and will further cement its place as a leader in the museum industry.