# The <u>Undergraduate Student Experiences with Citizen Science</u> (USE Cit Sci) Network: Easing Instruction, Improving Learning, and Broadening Science Participation

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#### WHY IS A NETWORK NEEDED?

Coordination and dialogue among citizen science project developers and instructors is needed to determine recommended practices for the use of citizen science in higher education

A network can bring together individuals to:

- Develop and test recommended practices for both the implementation and assessment of citizen science with students
- Facilitate the adoption of citizen science by instructors
- Assist citizen science project staff in attracting instructors to use their project

### WHY USE CITIZEN SCIENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION?

Citizen science is becoming a popular tool for educating students for many reasons, including:

- Linking classroom content to community engagement can improve motivation and academic achievement, especially for underrepresented minorities in science
- Citizen science can be used in diverse course formats, disciplines, and institution types
- Diverse instructional options available that can be used even in times of teaching disruption, such as a pandemic

The USE Cit Sci Network strives to create a diverse community of practice invested in using existing citizen science with undergraduate students to:

- engage students in authentic science practices
- improve student and instructor learning outcomes
- broaden participation in science



#### **NETWORK GOALS**

Identify resources
available and
develop
recommendations
for implementing
and assessing
citizen science in
higher education

## Facilitate the adoption of citizen science in higher education:

- Dissemination of useful resources
- Creation of a peer mentoring system
- Professional development and support

Create a broad community of practice including instructors, citizen science staff, and

Assist citizen science projects in attracting instructors and reducing

Develop recommendations

barriers for use of their project in higher

education:

- Provide support for resource development

#### NETWORK LEADERSHIP

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#### **NETWORK FUNDING**

The USE Cit Sci Network is funded by the National Science Foundation (DBI 1919928)

