Girl Scouts Give Back: Citizen Science

Instructions for Troop Leaders

How can you play a part in solving some of the biggest problems facing our planet? Through citizen science, where volunteers help scientists collect data for their studies and experiments. Anyone can be a citizen scientist—all you need is curiosity and a willingness to help!

We've partnered with SciStarter, an online platform and community of citizen scientists, to bring two unique citizen science projects to Girl Scouts of all ages.

This summer, your troop can contribute to important scientific research by participating in one of our Girl Scouts Give Back citizen science projects.

Here's how your troop can help make a difference:

1. Choose either the Great Sunflower Project (for girls of all ages) or the Globe at Night project (for Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors) to create an account for your troop on SciStarter.

   - **The Great Sunflower Project (all ages):** Bees pollinate plants, which helps us grow food. Unfortunately, some bee populations are experiencing severe declines—and scientists want to find out why. You can help by observing bees in your area as part of this project. Find a plant you know, observe it for five or more minutes, record all the pollinators that visit in that time, and share your data online.

   - **Globe at Night (Cadettes, Seniors, and Cadettes):** Light pollution affects our view of the stars, causes sleep disorders in people, and disrupts the sleeping and breeding habits of animals such as newly hatched sea turtles. For this project, you'll head outside and compare how many stars you can see in a chosen constellation to how many you should be able to see. You'll share data with scientists about your location and whether or not it was cloudy and you were able to see stars.

   Note: On SciStarter, you'll be signing up for one "girl" account for all your girls as part of the "Girl Scouts of the USA" troop. As the troop leader, you're responsible for uploading one set of data for your entire troop through this account.

2. Before your meeting, check out your project's instructions and materials list (found on your SciStarter dashboard). Gather any tools and materials needed for the project.

3. At the meeting, share the project's instructions (found on your SciStarter dashboard) with your troop and watch the "Welcome" video from the scientists. Answer any questions your girls have about the project.

4. Collect your data, helping the girls take field notes about what they observe. Make sure your girls collect all the data the scientists are asking for. Review your girls' field notes together as a troop and decide on one set of data to submit to the scientists.

5. Log your troop's data through your [SciStarter dashboard](#).

6. With your troop, watch the scientist's "Thank You" video on your SciStarter dashboard.

7. Snap a photo of your troop's work and share on social media using #GirlScoutsGiveBack (be sure to tag @girlscouts). Don't forget to [add your project](#) so it can be counted as part of our national service projects.

8. If you wish to recognize your troop's participation with a patch, we recommend the [Girl Scouts Give Back patch.](#)

Want to learn more about citizen science? For a limited time only, you can download all activity instructions and the *Take Action Guide* for the Think Like a Citizen Scientist Journey for FREE from the [Girl Scout Shop](#)!