

Getting started with Citizen Science, on Bainbridge and around the world!

Welcome to the world of Citizen Science, where **YOU** play an integral role in the collection, processing, interpretation and communication of science, from right in your backyard to around (and out of) this world!

As with our breakout session that this document supports, we'll focus primarily on resources and tools that help you conduct citizen science from right here, contributing to the knowledge of how Bainbridge Island's forests and other ecosystems function and stay healthy. Citizen science in our own backyards also, as we will see, connects us to other biological communities throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

But first- if you are interested in plugging in to a whole world of opportunities, we highly recommend [SciStarter](#). This National Science Foundation- funded website provides connections to a huge number of citizen science opportunities around the world, many from the comfort of your own computer! Subjects range from psychology to entomology, from transportation planning to climate research, and many projects are train-as-you go, requiring little or no previous knowledge to jump on board. There are projects for every age and ability. Some connect locally, others take you (virtually) to far away places and even other planets, to help scientists further our knowledge and understanding.

Also connecting the dots from local to global, Washington State University Extension has a fabulous [list of Citizen Science opportunities](#), some of which overlap with both Sci Starter and the resources we'll be diving into below.

If you want more depth and background into the world of citizen science and how it works, we highly recommend [The Field Guide to Citizen Science: How you can contribute to scientific research and make a difference](#) by Darlene Cavalier, Catherine Hoffman, and Caren Cooper. Its available from Eagle Harbor Books.

Here are several free (other than in some cases needing to have a smartphone or computer) tools and Resources for tapping in to **local citizen science**.

Resource	Link	Description
iNaturalist	<a href="https://www.inaturalist.org">https://www.inaturalist.org</a>	A powerful tool for collecting and sharing information about the natural world. Using a smartphone app, you can photograph and upload an organism's picture that becomes part of a world-wide database for the distribution and abundance of wildlife and plants. The app also lets you crowd-source identification help from taxonomic experts if you need help identifying what you have found.
Seek	<a href="http://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app">www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app</a>	Seek is also brought to you by iNaturalist, and its kind of like its mirror image. Rather than starting with a known plant or wildlife, take an item's photo and seek will help you identify that organism- and, by linking your account with iNaturalist, you can upload the observation there as well! Seek also has fun user challenges to up your knowledge and observations.

<p>Nature's notebook</p>	<p><a href="http://www.usanpn.org/natures_notebook">www.usanpn.org/natures_notebook</a></p> <p>And for a recent talk hosted by Kitsap Audubon about this resource, see the Feb 11 video at <a href="https://www.kitsapaudubon.org/video">https://www.kitsapaudubon.org/video</a></p>	<p>a project of the National Phenology Network, which tracks the timing of plant and animal behaviors that can help us better understand the ways in which climate change are affecting our natural world. Once you set up the app on your smartphone, you can begin recording observations about species that include things like date of flowering, leaf drop, dates of presence of specific bird species, and more.</p>
<p>Ebird</p>	<p><a href="https://ebird.org/home">https://ebird.org/home</a></p>	<p>vital source for collecting citizen science observations of the distribution and abundance of bird species around the world. Hosted by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, ebird provides a free app for uploading data and you can access that data to see all the local bird sighting information yourself. With hundreds of thousands of Citizen Scientists contributing, ebird has become a powerhouse for research into the trends and status of bird species, providing vital information for monitoring and conservation efforts.</p>

Carnivore Spotter	<a href="https://carnivorespotter.org/">https://carnivorespotter.org/</a>	Carnivore Spotter was developed by Woodland Park Zoo and Seattle University and is a component of both the <a href="#">Seattle Urban Carnivore Project</a> and the <a href="#">Grit City Carnivore Project</a> to study carnivores throughout the Puget Sound region as part of the Urban Wildlife Information Network. The area covered by this project includes the Kitsap Peninsula.
Forest Health Watch: Western Redcedar Dieback Project	<a href="https://foresthealth.org/redcedar/">https://foresthealth.org/redcedar/</a> ; <a href="https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/western-redcedar-dieback-map">https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/western-redcedar-dieback-map</a>	Western red cedar, an iconic native species in our area, is exhibiting signs of stress and mortality that may be linked to our changing climate. Forest health watch needs you to contribute local data about stressed trees in order to investigate the environmental relationships that may be driving these impact to our native trees. You'll use iNaturalist to document stressed or dying trees and provide information about their symptoms.

<p>Washington Invasive Species Reporting</p>	<p><a href="https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/report-a-sighting/">https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/report-a-sighting/</a></p>	<p>The Washington Invasive Species council needs your help to ensure the early detection, rapid response, and reporting of invasive species across our state. Their free app is downloadable at this link, and provides tons of information about priority invasive plants and animals that we either want to ensure do not get a foothold in our state, or work to control them if they are here. You can use the app or the web reporting form to report your sightings.</p>
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