2026

SUMMER OF COMMUNITY SCIENCE RESEARCH







The Climate Initiative





What is community science?

Most commonly known as citizen science, community science is when researchers lean on the public for help to collect, sort, or test data.

Projects are:

- Available to people of all ages
- Indoor friendly, and outdoor friendly
- Available year round
- Available all around the world



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What if I start after June or end before August?

I missed the May onboarding call, can I still join?

Yes! Watch the recording of our onboarding call on our website. Fill out our project submission form and share all the projects you will be working on

I can't research for all three months, I can only commit to one or two months. Can I still join?

Yes! This is not an all or nothing program. We want to submit as much as we can, so if you can only participate for a little bit, a little bit is better than none!

I have a friend or family member that wants to join later in the summer, is that okay?

Yes! The more the merrier, you are welcome to share this guide and explain to them what project you are doing and why.
We ask that:

- They can fill out the project registration form
- They submit to us the data they have submitted to the project at the end of each month.

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Three types of projects

SORTING DATA

Helping to sort and categorize photos or audio recordings that have been captured by wildlife or underwater cameras.

This type of work happens on a computer and is great for any time you can't go outside. Accessible to flt can be done while you're sitting on the couch!

MONITORING POPULATIONS

Scientists can't be everywhere at once. A common type of project is taking photos of a specific species (animals, insects, plants, fungi) and uploading it into a database.

You might be asked to photograph an invasive species, a native species of a migrating species (like birds or monach butterflies!) to help keep a record of population numbers.

TESTING AIR, SOIL, WATER

Sometimes scientists need help collecting samples! If you select a project that asks you to collect samples, the project will send you the supplies you need and instructions explaining how to collect the samples. The most common sample collection projects ask for water, soil, or measuring air quality.



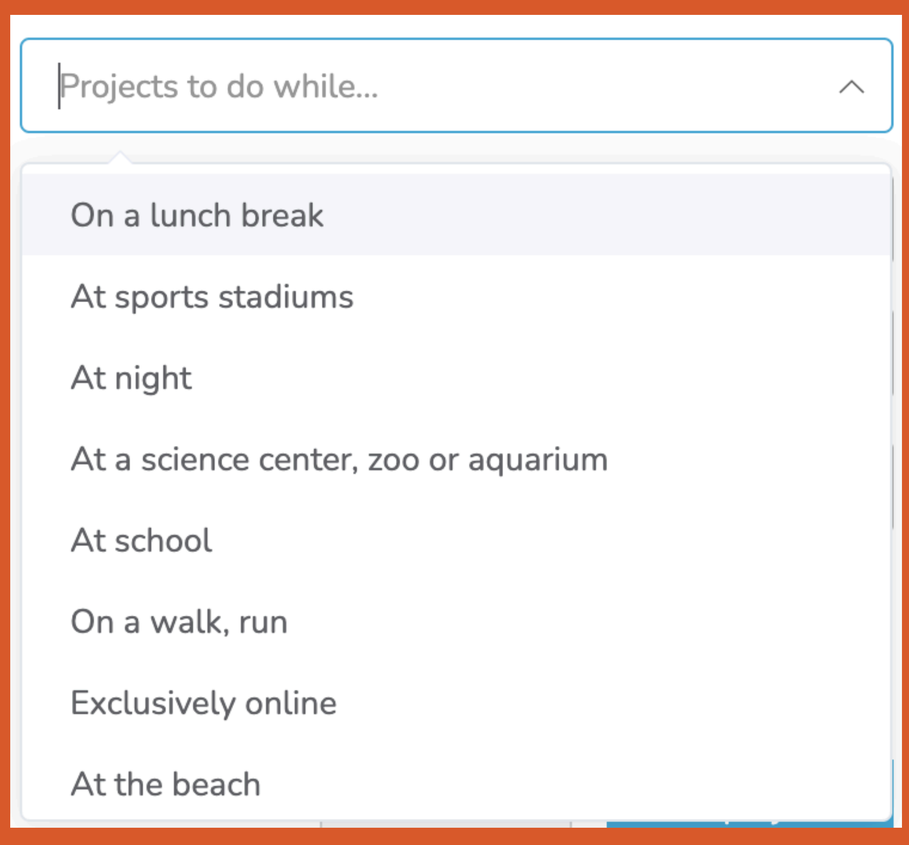
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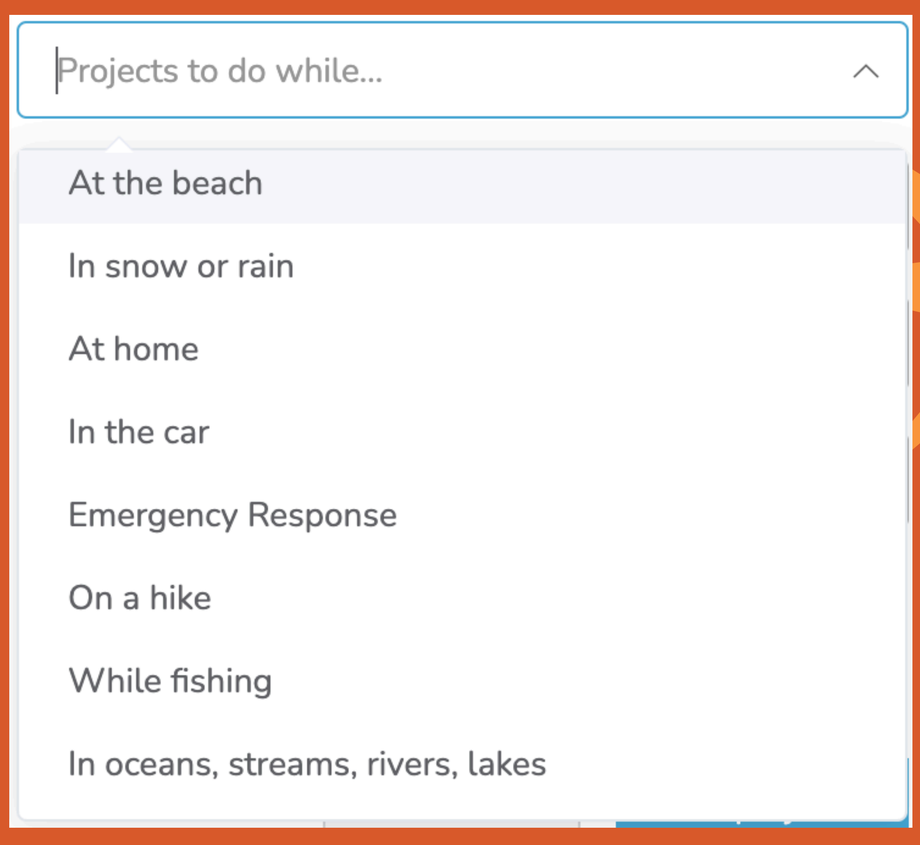
Resources

Where to find projects you can sign up for for this program.

- inaturalist.org/projects
  Uses the iNaturalist up to take photos and upload them. App is free to download. International projects available.

- scistarter.org
  Has an extensive sorting tool. US-based





- xerces.org/community-science
  Community science projects surrounding animals and tracking animal populations

- zooniverse.org
  List of over 100 community-science projects to participate in

- tinyurl.com/OnlineClimateResources
  TCI made spreadsheet with links to all community science research websites.



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Timeline



May 27th - May 28th

Onboarding calls. Four onboarding calls to introduce participants to the program.



Friday, June 5th

Submit project commitments deadline. (link will be live for people joining the program after this date)

https://forms.gle/E6qnG2xQFLE1rXpc9

June 25th - 30th

Window to submit data to TCI for month of June



July 27th-July 31st

Window to submit data to TCI for month of July



August 26th-August 31st

Window to submit data to TCI for month of August



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How to submit data

You will submit 2 types of data.

- You will submit data to the project directly. Instructions on how to collect and submit data will be provided to you when you select a project.
    - Example: Submitting photos or test samples to researchers directly.
- You will submit an overview of what it is that you completed that month to The Climate Initiative
    - Example: This month I submitted 89 photos of ____ to my research project. And include photos of your "dashboard" to verify.
    - You do NOT need to submit all 89 photos (using the example from above) of the same data you submitted to the project. However, if there are any particularly cool photos, we would love to have them to be able to inclue in our monthly report outs!

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How to submit data

At the end of each month, you will use this link to submit screenshots of your data. Each project should have a dashboard that will show your personal stats.

- How many photos you've sorted
- How many photos you've submitted
- How many test samples you've submitted

Click the link or scan the QR code

form.jotform.com/261316508547055

Dates to submit data

June 25th - 30th
July 27th-July 31st
August 26th-August 31st

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Monthly Report Outs

July, August and September, we will create report outs of and share them on our Instagram and Substack!

- https://substack.com/home/post/p-195270533
- https://www.instagram.com/p/DXhkPlUmU6-/?img_index=2

We will take the data that you have submitted to us and create a report out that adds up everything that everyone participating in this program did!

We piloted this with our 2026 Climate Action Leadership Program, and you can find those reports linked above.

We have had participants express intrest in writing up short reflections that they would like published on Substack and/or Instagram, if you are interested in this, please email

ambassadors@theclimateinitiative.org

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Monthly Report Outs

Over the course of one month this past spring, we had 8 participants deliver these numbers in total!

BREAKDOWN BY THE NUMBERS

3,106

Classifications completed

Participants that worked on photo classifications looked at photos taken by cameras that scientists set up and helped classify them into categories predetermined by the researchers.

Completed on a computer

43

Sightings of Invertebrets

Participants went to a river to see how many different species they could find. The more species, the healthier the water.

Outside Water-based

25

Water Samples collected and submitted

Participants received free nitrate testing kits and tested for nitrates in their local water ways.

Outside Water-based

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SWIPE →

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