

Citizen Science Kits

What is citizen science? Citizen science is real scientific research done by people like you and me! There are projects and resources to match a variety of interests, and Citizen Science is perfect for all ages and great for family activities. No prior scientific knowledge is required, simply a willingness to learn and participate.

Milkweed and Monarchs

- **6 Books**
- **Magnifying Glass**
- **Fishnet and Bug Jar**
- **Binoculars**
- **3 Pamphlets**
- **Observation Sheets**
- **Park Activity Sheets**

Over the last 20 years, the number of monarch butterflies in North America has dropped, and one possible cause is a lack of milkweed plants. As efforts to plant more milkweeds are growing, researchers are studying the relationship between milkweeds and monarchs more closely.



Observing Pollinators

- **2 Books**
- **Stop Watch**
- **Magnifying Glass**
- **2 Pamphlets**
- **Pollinator Observer Carts**
- **Observation Sheets**

This kit asks Citizen Scientists to take counts of the number and types of pollinators visiting plants especially sunflowers. Thanks to their thousands of observers, scientists can determine where pollinator service is strong or weak compared to averages.



Phenology and Climate

- **6 Books**
- **Magnifying Glass**
- **Fishnet and Bug Jar**
- **Binoculars**
- **6 Pamphlets**
- **Observation Sheets**
- **Park Activity Sheets**

Phenology is the study of the timing of the life-cycle events in plants and animals: flowering, leafing, hibernation, reproduction, and migration. This kit asks citizen scientists to provide records on how plants are responding to seasons and longer-term changes in climate.



Project Squirrel

- **5 Books**
- **Binoculars**
- **Observation Sheet**

No matter where you live, city or suburb, from the Midwest to the East Coast, Canada to California, if squirrels live in your neighborhood, you are encouraged to become a squirrel monitor. Your observations are important as we monitor these urban animals that are important indicators of local ecology.



Starry Sky

- **Pelican 1200 Black Case**
- **Night Sky Star Finder**
- **LED Flashlight**
- **Starry Sky Survey**
- **3 Books**

The Montana Learning Center has partnered with libraries across Montana to help young scientists and their families monitor light pollution in Big Sky Country. Light pollution, caused by unnecessary or excess lighting, is a growing problem in Montana. It threatens our view of the Milky Way, even in remote and rural areas. Protecting our state's dark sky heritage is important for many reasons. The Starry Sky Survey Project kits are sponsored in part by NASA, Montana Learning Center, and the Montana Chapter of the International Dark-Sky Association.

