

The Nexus of Citizen Science: Aligning Community and Research Needs

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PRESENTATION FORMAT: 15 minute oral presentation

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Anyone working with or interested in, citizen science projects, or anyone with an interest in online field training

ABSTRACT: The field of citizen science is expanding rapidly, as communities and scientists work together to achieve similar goals. In addition to contributing to the scientific effort, citizen science provides a mechanism to align research with community needs, while building scientific literacy.

The Environmental Preparedness and Resilience Empowering People (EPREP) program is based on passive sampling technology that allows community members to monitor air quality in their community, or their personal exposures to ambient air. The program draws upon the success of previous community-engaged projects. Interactive, educational training modules with built-in assessments will be paired with short, instructional text on topics such as environmental health, safety in the field, use of the passive sampling device, study design and quality assurance/control.

Training will be created and tested with community focus groups in an iterative feedback loop, allowing for at least two full rounds of revisions. A small pilot test will be conducted with a partner community group prior to official EPREP launch.

Here, presenters will discuss how EPREP addresses the requirements for successful citizen science projects by leveraging online training mechanisms, storing and analyzing samples, reporting data back to participants, and providing a free online database of all collected data.

OBJECTIVE(S): Learners will be able to describe the factors that contribute to a successful citizen science program

Learners will be able to describe multi-modal online training mechanisms for teaching field skills

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