

## Think Like a Citizen Scientist Journey

# How to Use SciStarter Guide

Girl Scouts and SciStarter have partnered to bring a unique opportunity to Girl Scouts of all ages. As part of the Think Like a Citizen Scientist Journey, SciStarter has created a special dashboard for Volunteers and Girl Scouts for your troop's citizen science and Take Action project(s).

SciStarter has almost 3,000 citizen science projects to choose from — so the dashboards include a handful of citizen science projects that are well suited for Girl Scouts. There are projects that can be done in any season, keeping in mind that some parts of the country have 70-degree days in February, and some have blizzards!

This meeting aid will give you more information on how to use SciStarter and support girls through the Think Like a Citizen Scientist Journey.

Volunteers can get started by creating a Girl Scout SciStarter volunteer account, here: <https://scistarter.com/girlscouts/volunteer/landing>. See the “Getting Started Guide” section of this meeting aid for more information.

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## About SciStarter

SciStarter connects people to real science they can do through the world's largest, searchable citizen science database. This is where people discover, join, and track their contributions to science projects that advance real scientific research! On SciStarter, you can learn how to help scientists collect data and how to share that data.

## Using SciStarter

**When you register for a Girl Scouts SciStarter account, you'll have access to:**

- **Citizen Science Projects.** A short list of projects has been chosen for the Journey because they're easiest to do within a typical troop meeting.
- **Welcome Videos from the Scientists.** Welcome videos from the scientists provide a brief explanation and allow the girls to choose what kind of science experience they would like to have. Show these videos to girls to help them choose a project and understand how they're contributing to scientific research.
- **Thank You Videos from the Scientists.** The projects on your dashboard also have "Thank You" videos from the scientists once you have contributed data. You can show these videos to boost the troop's sense of pride and accomplishment once they've completed the citizen science project in Think Like a Citizen Scientist Pt. 3.
- **Citizen Science Project Tracking.** Your volunteer account dashboard tracks what your girls do throughout the Journey and for any future citizen science projects the girls want to complete. Volunteers and girls can record their progress, see all they've accomplished, and explore the possibilities for future citizen science projects.

## Ready to get started?

Set up your volunteer account now at <https://scistarter.com/girlscouts/volunteer/landing>. Once you sign up, you'll be able to send girls a link to sign-up for their own dashboard and access the citizen science projects.

See the "Getting Started Guide" section of this meeting aid for more information on how to sign up for SciStarter and use your dashboard to support girls through the Journey.

## Getting Started Guide

### How to Sign Up for SciStarter if You're a Volunteer

To start and then track your Girl Scouts' progress on the Think Like a Citizen Scientist Journey, you'll need a special SciStarter account that connects to your Troop's accounts.

You can sign up for a Girl Scout SciStarter volunteer dashboard at <https://scistarter.com/girlscouts/volunteer/landing>.

Once you sign up, you'll be able to send girls a unique link to sign-up for their own dashboard and access the citizen science projects.

- **If the girls in your troop are Cadettes or below**, you will have to select a project for your troop to complete together as part of the sign-up process. You will be responsible for choosing the project and uploading the data.
- **If you have Seniors or Ambassadors**, girls will have the option to select and upload data for their own citizen science projects once you send them the link to sign-up for their own SciStarter accounts.

After creating your account, you'll be directed to your Think Like a Citizen Scientist Journey dashboard on SciStarter. Here you'll find the selected citizen science project(s) for your girls to make observations, collect data, and share what they've learned with scientists!

After the citizen science project(s) has been completed, girls can take what they've learned a step further with their Take Action project! Your dashboard will also help you to record your troop's Take Action project and share how the project has made a difference in the world!

After your troop completes their citizen science and Take Action projects, you'll need to click the "Complete Journey" button for you and your troop to earn credit for the Journey.

After you complete the Journey, you and your girls can come back to SciStarter to find more projects to do as a troop, with family, or with friends!

#### Note:

- Each Girl Scout's SciStarter account will be linked to her troop volunteer's SciStarter account. That helps the troop volunteer keep track of girls' progress.
- The troop volunteer will also be able to easily communicate with each Girl Scout through private messages.
- SciStarter and Girl Scouts take privacy seriously. All Girl Scout-SciStarter accounts are marked as private. No one outside of your troop can see the accounts.
- Remember, if a girl is under the age of 13, her trusted adult will need to create a SciStarter account for her.

## How to Sign Up for SciStarter if You're a Girl Scout

To track their progress on the Think Like a Citizen Scientist Journey, girls will need a special SciStarter account that connects to their Volunteer's SciStarter account.

**Girl and family accounts should ONLY be created using the custom link provided to the Volunteer. The link for individual Girl Scout families to join is available on the Volunteer's Girl Management Tab when logged in to SciStarter.**

When a volunteer signs up for a Girl Scouts SciStarter dashboard, a unique link will be generated for the leader to send out to invite girls to join SciStarter. This links the girls' dashboards to the Volunteer and their troop's citizen science project(s). If a Volunteer needs to access their unique link after the initial sign-up, they can always access the code in the Girl Scouts Management Tab on the SciStarter dashboard. Remember, the codes are unique to each troop, so Girl Scouts should only sign up for their free SciStarter accounts using the unique code.

Girls can use the unique link sent by their Volunteer to create their own Girl Scouts SciStarter dashboard. **If girls are under 13, they will need to ask an adult to set up a SciStarter account for them.**

After creating their account, girls will be directed to their Think Like a Citizen Scientist Journey dashboard on SciStarter.

- If girls see one citizen science project, that's the one the troop will do together! Girls can follow the project instructions found on their dashboard to learn how to make observations, collect data, and share what they've learned with scientists! The troop volunteer will log data and upload the Take Action project on behalf of the troop.
- If girls see several citizen science projects, that means they can choose a citizen science project, log data, and come back to their Journey page on SciStarter to upload a Take Action project through their own account.

Girls can return to their dashboard at anytime by going to this page <https://scistarter.com/girlscouts/girl/journey> to check their progress on the Journey.

Once girls have completed both their citizen science and Take Action projects, the Volunteer will need to click "Complete Journey" on their dashboard in order for girls in the troop to earn credit for the Journey.

After girls complete the Journey, they can come back to SciStarter to find more projects to do with their family or with friends!