

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



**ACTION CLUB**



# Spark youth interest in science

Hands-on science investigation  
for out-of-school time  
programs



CALIFORNIA  
ACADEMY OF  
SCIENCES





# Science Action Club

## **Our Program**

Science Action Club (SAC) is a high-impact STEM program for middle school youth in out-of-school time. Through hands-on games and projects, youth in SAC investigate their local environment and use citizen science to document discoveries, share data, and design strategies to protect our planet.

## **Guidebooks and Kits**

Participating programs implement two (2) environmental science units, one in the fall and one in the spring. Each guidebook includes lesson plans for 12 one-hour club sessions. Each kit contains tools and supplies for 20 youth.

## ***Bugs in Your Schoolyard***

In this unit, youth search for bugs, collect specimens, and post discoveries to iNaturalist, a citizen science project and online social network for scientists and nature enthusiasts. Through iNaturalist, youth connect with biodiversity scientists and other SAC youth nationwide to identify species and investigate environmental issues.

## ***Birds in Your Schoolyard***

This unit explores feathers, flight, and the features that make birds unique. Using tools and technology, youth identify local birds and investigate environmental changes that impact bird behavior. The bird counts they submit to eBird – a citizen science project from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology – help scientists better understand these important species.

## **Professional Development**

Science Action Club trainings are interactive and fun! By completing our online training course and in-person workshop, afterschool staff will:

- Develop essential skills to facilitate 12 STEM activities successfully.
- Gain exclusive access to activity plans, teaching kits, and digital resources.
- Become citizen scientists and contribute to global environmental research.
- Contribute to a thoughtful community of practice with engaged and committed colleagues.

## **Eligibility**

To participate in Science Action Club, afterschool programs must:

- Ensure 2 or more staff participate in all online and in-person trainings.
- Recruit 15-20 youth in grades 5-8 and maintain high attendance.
- Designate appropriate indoor and outdoor space for science activities and nature investigations.
- Provide reliable Internet access and at least one mobile device (projectors and speakers are strongly recommended).
- Track attendance and submit feedback to the California Academy of Sciences.

## **Questions? Contact Us!**

[scienceactionclub@calacademy.org](mailto:scienceactionclub@calacademy.org)

[www.calacademy.org/sac](http://www.calacademy.org/sac)

Special thanks to our citizen science partners



The **Cornell** Lab of Ornithology

