



## Master Trainer Collaborative RFA

### Program Overview

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 (Fall)

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 (Spring)

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.

### Program Eligibility

To participate in Science Action Club, afterschool programs must:

- Ensure 2 or more staff complete 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

## **MASTER TRAINING AND THE NATIONAL GIRLS COLLABORATIVE**

In 2016-2017, the California Academy of Sciences is partnering with the National Girls Collaborative (NGC) to bring citizen science professional development activities to youth development educators and organizations.

One Master Trainer from each of ten (10) NGC Collaboratives will be selected to take part in the workshop and training series. Master Trainers will commit to the 2-Module Training Series and attend two in-person Master Trainer workshops (September 2016 and January 2017) and monthly web-based Community Meetings.

Each Master Trainer is responsible for recruiting at least 15 educators for curriculum workshops and will serve as a regional contact for the SAC team. Master Trainers will encourage and support educators as they become active in a community of practice for citizen science. The Master Trainer will assist with evaluation efforts (pre- and post- experience surveys at both the educator and youth level).

The California Academy of Sciences will provide lesson plans, science materials for hands-on activities, digital resources for extension, and will attend Monthly Community Meetings to provide curriculum and implementation support.

### **Benefits of Being an Official Science Action Club Collaborative**

- Travel and lodging for Master Trainers from each selected Collaborative to attend the Master Trainer Workshop series (2 workshops in 2016-2017)
- Stipend (\$600) for each Master Trainer's commitment to the Module Training series
- Development of a Citizen Science Educator Training network in your Collaborative
- Curriculum guidebooks and teaching kits
- Leadership in efforts to support youth development through citizen science
- Ongoing Professional development through Monthly Community Meetings/Trainer Support Calls

### **Requirements of being a Science Action Club Collaborative**

To participate, we ask the following items of your Collaborative:

- Identify one (1) Master Trainer for your Collaborative who will be able to:
  - Attend 2 one-day Master Trainer Workshops
    - September 23, 2016
    - January 2017
  - Facilitate a minimum of two (2) Educator Trainings (one in Fall 2016 and one in Spring 2017)
    - Trainers will reach out to and choose Educators using the Pre-Workshop survey provided by SAC-NGC team
    - Each Educator Training should be at least 5 hours and should include the components laid out at the Master Trainer Workshops and sample agendas
    - Trainers will follow-up with Educators regarding implementation of activities as well as pre- and post- implementation surveys (both Educator and youth-level).
  - Recruit educators from 15 afterschool programs who will be able to:
    - Implement all 12 one-hour activities between October 2016 – February 2017 for Module 1 and/or February 2017 – May 2017 for Module 2
    - Be active participants in a SAC Educator Community facilitated by the Master Trainers
    - Support the ongoing educator- and youth-level feedback and evaluation efforts
    - Add program information to The Connector

## Planning Process Timeline

2016	
July 26, 2016, 12:00pm Pacific/3:00pm Eastern	Science Action Club Application Information Webinar
August 2	Collaborative Applications DUE
August 11	Science Action Club Collaboratives Announced
July-September	Collaboratives recruit Educators for participation in SAC Training Series (Fall, Spring)
<b>September 23, 2016 Tampa, FL (prior to the ASTC Conference)</b>	<b>Trainer Workshop – Bugs Module</b>
October	Master Trainers host local Bugs Module trainings for Educators
October	Monthly Trainer Support Call
November	Monthly Trainer Support Call
December	Monthly Trainer Support Call
2017	
January Date and Location TBD	Trainer Workshop – Birds Module
February	Master Trainers host Birds Module Training with Educators*
February	Monthly Trainer Support Call
March	Monthly Trainer Support Call
April	Monthly Trainer Support Call
May	Monthly Trainer Support Call
June	Master Trainer Wrap up

Ongoing Evaluation

Ongoing Educator Support on Bugs Module youth-level implementation

\*Educators who attend workshops and implement the Bugs Module do not need to be the same educators who implement the Birds Module.

### **How to Apply**

Collaboratives interested in applying to be included in this training for 10 Citizen Science Collaboratives should submit their application by **August 2, 2016**.

An informational webinar will be held on July 26, 2016 to answer questions from potential Collaborative applicants. The URL for the meeting is: <http://connectpro35337274.adobeconnect.com/ngcp>. Audio will be supplied via the computer. No separate phone line will be available.

**Please apply at this link: [SAC-NGC Master Trainer Application](#).**

Trainers identified in the Collaborative's application must participate in the project.