

Seeking Partnerships to Engage Faith Communities in Citizen Science

The Adler Planetarium is excited to announce an opportunity made possible by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. We are soliciting interest from faith and interfaith groups and organizations in using or developing research projects on Zooniverse, the world's largest and most popular platform for online citizen science (www.zooniverse.org). Citizen science "crowd-sources" numerous human eyes or ears to glean information from digitized datasets in order to enable research projects that would otherwise be impossible or impractical. Citizen scientists contribute to research in diverse fields of study across the sciences and humanities, and Zooniverse engages more than 1.8 million adults and youth from all walks of life in projects led by investigators at over 120 research institutions around the world (www.zooniverse.org/projects).

The goal of this new opportunity is to create enduring partnerships between academic researchers and communities of faith in order to foster new collaborations and better understanding between individuals from diverse cultures and backgrounds. Zooniverse projects can be used remotely or during in-person group activities such as adult or youth programs, special events, or seminary classes (e.g., classroom.zooniverse.org). While anyone can join the Zooniverse community at any time, our intent is to collaborate with groups who are interested in (1) identifying existing Zooniverse projects that might be prototyped for use in their programs; or (2) co-developing new research projects with us using the Zooniverse Project Builder tool (www.zooniverse.org/lab).

Over the next few months, we'll be identifying potential partners to work with over the coming year. The aim of this effort is to lay a strong foundation for long-term relationships and engagement. Please contact Dr. Grace Wolf-Chase (gwolfchase@adlerplanetarium.org) if your group is interested in exploring possibilities!

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