# Science Literacy: It’s Not Just for Kids

<https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/science-literacy-not-just-for-kids.html>

While libraries have enthusiastically met the challenge to positively influence kids’ and teens’ attitudes, skills, and knowledge about STEM topics, adult-centered science programs are scarce in libraries. Youth have access to many creative, engaging, hands-on programs that use informal learning to develop exploration, experimentation, and computational thinking. But why are kids having all the fun (and skill enrichment)? As citizens and voters, adults are asked to make decisions that increasingly involve complex science. Join this webinar to learn about programs that make adult science learning fun and enticing, and that get people involved in investigating their environment. Join the conversation about expanding adult learning to include identifying environmental issues, applying science-based strategies, and working together to find solutions and take action for their communities.

Presented by: **Betha Gutsche**, WebJunction Program Manager; **Ash Kunz**, STEM Services Manager, NCW Libraries (WA); and **Vivienne Byrd**, Librarian III, Exploration & Creativity Department, Los Angeles Public Library (CA)

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| What are your goals for viewing this webinar? | |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |
| Why adults need to increase their science literacy | |
| “In today’s world, adults need to nurture their own curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking skills  as much as kids do. Adult programming, designed just for them, keeps them actively engaged in figuring out how they like playing with science, developing a passion for it, and discovering science’s purpose in their lives.” *—Adrienne Testa, master teacher, and Troy Livingston, vice president for innovation and learning*,  *Museum of Life and Science, Durham, North Carolina*  Reflect on how promoting science literacy for adults might align with your library’s mission.    What talking points might you use to persuade administration and staff to provide adult-focused science programming? | |

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| 1 – Hands-on Play and Fun |
| What programs does your library already offer to adults to stimulate scientific curiosity and make it fun? Are these programs for families or for adults only?  What STEAM programs do you offer to kids that could be adapted for adult exploration and play? |
| 2 – Citizen Science |
| What did you learn from hearing about the LAPL participation in the BioBlitz project that you might apply at your library?  Consult the [Library and Community Guide to Citizen Science](https://media.scistarter.org/curated/The+Library+and+Community+Guide+to+Citizen+Science.pdf) for ideas to get your library involved in citizen science projects. What projects look interesting and applicable to try at your library? |
| 3 – Community Science |
| Are you aware of any community science efforts already happening in your area? How might you find out?  If you’re ready to investigate the possibilities of community science:   * How will you conduct community discovery to understand local issues and people’s needs related to those issues? * What agencies or organizations could you partner with to support community discovery and organizing a program? * How will you connect scientists with community members in a mutually beneficial way? |

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| Action Plan: (include next steps, who, when, etc.) |

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| What are you inspired to try to initiate or expand adult science literacy?   * I want to do some hands-on play and fun programs. * I want to select a citizen science project and organize community participation through my library. * I want to explore the possibility of facilitating a community science project.   What steps will you take to get started? |