



M.S. or Ph.D. Assistantship in Human Dimensions of Citizen Science (Available for Fall 2020)

The College of Natural Resources (CNR) at North Carolina State University invites applications for an M.S. or Ph.D.-level assistantship beginning in Fall 2020 (start dates negotiable). The successful applicant will work under the supervision of [Dr. Lincoln Larson](#) (Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management) and [Dr. Caren Cooper](#) (Dept. of Forestry and Environmental Resources) and to pursue a degree in [Parks, Recreation & Tourism Management](#), [Fisheries, Wildlife & Conservation Biology](#), or [Natural Resources](#). The student will join our team, supported by an NSF-Advanced Informal STEM Learning (AISL) grant, investigating the potential of multi-project platforms for improving the experiences of citizen scientists. The 5-year study focuses on [SciStarter](#), the largest repository of citizen science projects in the world, and uses a variety of techniques to increase the capacity of citizen science to achieve broader goals for both science and society. The student will study citizen science as a form of recreation that provides a variety of health and wellness benefits, helping the research team examine engagement trajectories across multiple projects (e.g., shifts from online to offline or field-based participation), the factors that motivate these shifts, and the diverse benefits that volunteers derive as engagement deepens. Results will inform shared management of volunteers across a diverse array of projects and reveal ways citizen science can contribute to health and well-being.

Key Responsibilities & Opportunities (vary by degree objective):

- Work with faculty advisors to advance citizen science theory and practice by conducting literature reviews and crafting innovative research projects (assisting or leading study design, data collection, and analysis).
- Work with faculty advisors and project partners to enhance capacity for project management in SciStarter, including the development of thematic portals.
- Assist or lead in developing peer-reviewed journal articles, academic presentations, non-technical reports and outreach materials, and other project deliverables.
- Train and supervise undergraduate research assistants and/or serve as a teaching assistant in relevant courses.
- Contribute to the activities of the cluster on [Leadership in Public Science](#), which offers unique intellectual focus and professional development in the realm of citizen science, open science, and science communication.

Required Qualifications:

- BS (for MS level) or MS degree (for PhD) in human dimensions of natural resources, park/recreation management, social sciences, or related field
- Demonstrated research experience (data collection, analysis, and writing)
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Strong commitment to public science and interdisciplinary research
- Interest in interdisciplinary research
- Meet admissions requirements of the NC State Graduate School

Desired Qualifications:

- Some background and/or coursework in recreation and leisure studies, public health, or related field
- Experience with quantitative research and analysis skills, including survey development and implementation
- Experience with qualitative research, including interviews and data transcription
- Experience with web analytics and large datasets
- Experience working in citizen science contexts as a researcher and/or practitioner

Assistantship Package: The assistantship provides a competitive stipend, tuition, student fees, and health insurance. It assumes 20 hours per week dedicated to the project and 20 hours dedicated to coursework. The M.S. position is renewable for up to 2 years based on satisfactory progress. The Ph.D. position is renewable for up to 4 years based on satisfactory progress.

Starting Date: The negotiable starting date for the assistantships is August 15, 2020.

How to Apply: Please begin the application process by sending an email copying both Dr. Lincoln Larson (LRLarson@ncsu.edu) and Dr. Caren Cooper (cbcoope3@ncsu.edu), attaching the the following items in one PDF document:

- 1) Letter of Intent (personal statement describing relevant experience and research interests, should also specify preferred assistantship – MS or PhD)
- 2) Resume or CV
- 3) Contact Information for 3 Academic References

The position will remain open until filled, with all applications submitted by February 17, 2020 receiving full consideration. If selected for the position, applicants will be asked to [submit an online application](#) to the NC State Graduate School.

About the College of Natural Resources (CNR):

[CNR](#) is a world leader in the sustainable use of natural resources. CNR's comprehensive approach to teaching, research and service encompasses the many and varied ways in which people's physical, economic and social needs are met through the wise use of natural resources. CNR is committed to interdisciplinary research, teaching and engagement, as nurturing and enjoying the environment and engineering sustainable products go hand-in-hand with helping communities and enterprises thrive. The faculty, staff, students and alumni of CNR are discovering and sharing real world solutions to real world problems every day.

About the Campus & Community:

Campus life at [NC State](#) is lively and varied. It offers [numerous opportunities for graduate students](#) hoping to build a rewarding and well-balanced life. The university is located in Raleigh, NC: consistently rated as one of the nation's [best places to live](#), work and play!

If you have any questions about this assistantship opportunity, please contact either:

- [Dr. Lincoln Larson](#) at LRLarson@ncsu.edu or 919-515-8947
- [Dr. Caren Cooper](#) at cbcoope3@ncsu.edu or 919-707-9273

NC State is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. NC State University welcomes all persons without regard to sexual orientation or genetic information.