Y-CITYSCI: A Youth-Led Citizen Science Network for Community Environmental Assessment
Environmental Assessment Curriculum: Lesson 4
Grade Level: Middle school
Duration: 1 hour

STEM Careers

Next Generation Science Standards

Science and Engineering Practices:
      1: Asking Questions and Defining Problems
      8: Obtaining, Evaluation, and Communicating Information

Objectives

1. Students will recognize that people from diverse backgrounds and experiences can become scientists.

Materials

- [STEM Careers video](#)
- STEM Careers worksheet
- Smart board/ projector
- Game materials
- Panel guests

Activities

Bell Ringer: Watch STEM Careers video and have students fill out questions on STEM Careers worksheet. (5 minutes)

Discussion: Discuss STEM careers that students are aware of or interested in. What types of qualities and characteristics do students think makes a scientist? (10 minutes)

Activity: Play a short game that allows the students and instructor to get to know each other. A possible game to play is to cover a beach ball with various questions on it and have the students pass it around. When they catch the ball they can share their name, and answer the question that their right thumb lands on. (15 minutes)

Panel Session: The students will attend a panel that includes the instructor and guests from various STEM careers, or college students in STEM majors. Each adult will have

the floor for a set amount of time to share a challenge they experienced in middle or high school and how they overcame that challenge to become the scientist they are today. Student questions will have limited time to ask questions at the end of each speaker's time. (30 minutes)

Resources

Next Generation Science Standards Appendix H: Nature of Science includes support for the objective under the "Science is a human endeavor" category:

Doing Science Authentically explores what students think doing science is, and what scientists think and do.

Name: _____

STEM Careers

What was the most interesting career to you from the video?

What about that career interests you?

Do you see yourself in a STEM career in the future?

Name: _____

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