



The Y-CITYSCI: A Youth-Led Citizen Science Network for Community Environmental Assessment is sharing information with you about citizen science apps that you can use at home. With citizen science, the public can have fun collecting data in their community while contributing to scientific research.



## mPING and FLOCAST



The Meteorological Phenomena Identification Near the Ground (mPING) is a citizen science app that allows users to report weather information involving wind and precipitation at their location. The app gives scientists at the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL), the University of Oklahoma, and the Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies field data to improve the radar technology that is used when predicting and reporting on weather events. Flood Observations – Citizens As Scientists using Technology (FLOCAST) is another NOAA project utilizing mPING reports. FLOCAST is focused on using citizen scientists to report floods to improve flash-flood prediction tools and improve the flash-flood warning system across the United States.

### How to use the app

After downloading the mPING app, users are immediately able to report weather conditions at their location including: precipitation type, wind damage, flooding, mud or landslides, reduced visibility and if there is a tornado present. The app is incredibly simple to use. Simply select the report type and submit it! The report uses the user's phone's location to record the location of the report. FLOCAST utilizes this data but has a website where users can input additional data such as when a flood started and ended, pictures, the extent and impact of floods. To do this, navigate to the FLOCAST website and click on the "REPORT FLOODING" tab and answer as many questions as you can without endangering yourself or others. Remember to always stay safe and remain out of flood waters.

### How you can get the app

To download and install the app or access FLOCAST on Android and Apple devices, use the following links.

For Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=edu.ou.cimms.mping>

For Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/mping/id584383400?mt=8>

FLOCAST: <http://flash.ou.edu/flocast/>

### Why using mPING and FLOCAST is fun and important

These apps are important for our communities to better understand and stay safe during weather events such as severe storms and floods.

For more information, visit the mPING website at <https://mping.nssl.noaa.gov/>.

Now that you have the mPING app, **we challenge you** to use the app to submit 3 reports before, during, or after precipitation events. Take a screenshot and describe why these activities are important. Submit your answer by messaging our Instagram account at [@YCITYSCI](https://www.instagram.com/YCITYSCI) for the chance to win a prize and your answer be featured on our page! New mPING related questions will be added to our Instagram story and page throughout the week. Respond to these questions to have a chance to win additional prizes!



Check out more Y-CITYSCI activities at [ycitysci.wordpress.com](http://ycitysci.wordpress.com) and [www.siestemcenter.org/ycitysci/](http://www.siestemcenter.org/ycitysci/)

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