

# Community Dialogues for Summer and Beyond

**Presenter: Anne Holland (STAR Net)**

The webinar will begin at 2:00 p.m. (MT) and will be recorded.

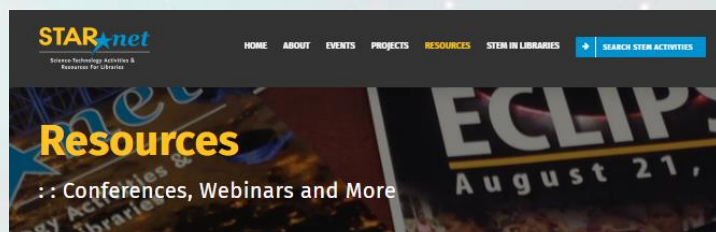
**While you're waiting:**

- 1) Find the toolbar – it will either be on the bottom or top of your Zoom window
- 2) Introduce yourself in the chat box (please select “Share with All” *not* “Share with Presenter”)
- 3) Click audio “Join by Computer” – you won’t have microphone access

Tip for viewing: You can resize and move the location of the video and slide screens by clicking and dragging them

# Join STAR Net!

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Professional development  
resources, including webinars,  
newsletters, blogs, forums, videos,  
and much more!

**Curated Resources For Professional Development**


Building the capacity of public libraries and library staff to deliver engaging, inspirational, and educational STEM programs has the potential to transform the STEM education landscape across the country. What started in libraries some years ago as independent experiments in STEM programming has become a national STEM movement.

Across the country, libraries are redefining their roles. They're becoming primary centers of informal learning, especially STEM learning. And this critical transition is being carried out by many dedicated librarians. To help them, the STAR Library Education Network (STAR\_Net) is providing resources to support their efforts to develop new skills and provide quality STEM programming.


Collaboration is the key to transforming libraries into STEM learning centers




Conferences




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2017 Solar Eclipse



Exhibition Posters



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Guides, Facts & Tips

**Recent Blogs**

- Watercraft Design
- The Dirt on Soil
- Do You Have Your Solar Eclipse Glasses? Great - Now Try Them Out!

**Upcoming Events**

- Discover NASA Exhibition (AZ)  
May 3 - July 28
- Summer Learning - Build a Better World  
May 15 - August 31
- Discover Tech Exhibition (CO)  
May 31 - August 25

[View All Events](#)

# STEM ACTIVITY Clearinghouse

For example:  
[DIY Sun Cookies](#)

STEM Activity Clearinghouse

Search

STARnet Science-Technology Activities & Resources For Libraries

COS Cornerstones of Science awakening curiosity, enriching lives

Collections 2017 Total Solar Eclipse

ATTRIBUTES

2017 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

There are 7 items.

Showing 1 - 7 of 7 items

**Content Area**

- ☐ Earth Science (0)
- ☐ Astronomy and Space (0)
- ☐ Chemistry (0)
- ☐ Physics (0)
- ☐ Engineering (0)
- ☐ Mathematics (0)
- ☐ Technology and Computing (0)
- ☐ Health Science (0)

**Age Group**

- ☐ Family (0)
- ☐ Infant (0-2) (0)
- ☐ Pre-K (0)
- ☐ Early Elementary (0)
- ☐ Upper Elementary (0)
- ☐ Tweens (9-12) (0)
- ☐ Teens (0)
- ☐ Adults (0)

**Time to Complete Activity**

- ☐ Under 10 minutes (0)
- ☐ 10-20 minutes (0)
- ☐ 20-40 minutes (0)
- ☐ 40 minutes to 1 hour (0)
- ☐ 1-2 hours (0)
- ☐ 2-4 hours (0)
- ☐ Long Duration (days to months) (0)

**How Big, How Far, How Hot, How Old?**

This is an activity about scale. Participants will arrange imagery of Earth and many other space objects in order of their size from smallest to largest, their distance from Earth's surface, their temperature from coolest to hottest, and/or their age from youngest to oldest.

[Open Activity](#) Report broken link

**Content Area**  
Earth Science  
Astronomy and Space

**Age Group**  
Family  
Upper Elementary  
Tweens (9-12)

**Time to Complete Activity**  
10-20 minutes

**Difficulty Level (by content)**  
Medium

[View Details](#)

**How Can the Little Moon Hide the Giant Sun?**

This is an activity exploring the concept that distance affects how we perceive an object's size, specifically pertaining to the size of the Sun and the Moon as seen from Earth.

[Open Activity](#) Report broken link

**Content Area**  
Earth Science  
Astronomy and Space

**Age Group**  
Early Elementary  
Upper Elementary

**Time to Complete Activity**  
40 minutes to 1 hour

**Difficulty Level (by content)**  
Easy



Like an activity and think other library staff should know how great it is? Didn't like an activity or have modifications to make it better? **Make sure to leave a review!**



# Join STAR Net's "Summer of Space"



HOME ABOUT **EVENTS** PROJECTS RESOURCES STEM IN LIBRARIES [→ SEARCH STEM ACTIVITIES](#)

## STAR Net Partners with the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) for the 2019 Summer Learning Program

In the summer of 2019, 16,000 libraries across the country will celebrate space exploration in their summer reading programs. The slogan "A Universe of Stories" was chosen by library professionals to help inspire children of all ages to dream big, believe in themselves, and create their own story. [CSLP](#) and STAR Net are partnering to share [STEM resources](#) with these libraries.

This summer learning program will coincide with NASA's [60 years of achievement](#) and its celebration of the [50th anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing](#).



[LEARN MORE ABOUT CSLP](#)



## Register Your Library and Get Notified of Valuable Resources!

If you're interested in getting important resource notifications (and other news) for 2019's Summer Learning Program, register your library's participation to receive this important event newsletter.

### Registration Benefits:

- A monthly newsletter curated with valuable resources and opportunities
- Automatic entry for chance to win 1 of 2 FREE [Orion StarBlast Telescopes](#) (open to U.S. public libraries only)
- Library representation on STAR Net's "Summer of Space" Map (below)

[REGISTER YOUR LIBRARY TODAY!](#)

# Upcoming Webinar

## Mars in May

- May 2 at 1:00 p.m. MT / 2:00 p.m. MT / 3:00 p.m. CT / 4:00 p.m. ET
- <http://www.starnetlibraries.org/event/mars-in-may/>

# STEM for All Video Showcase

- *STAR Net* recently entered a video in the STEM For All Video Showcase - <https://stemforall2019.videohall.com/>
- *STAR Net's* 3-minute video focuses on how the organization has prepared libraries for the 2019 Collaborative Summer Library Program summer learning theme, "A Universe of Stories."
- Online showcase and voting takes place from 5/13 – 5/20
- Read more on our blog - <https://bit.ly/2V6tj9p>
- See a sneak peak of the video here - <https://bit.ly/2UQ4dXx>



# Community Dialogues in YOUR Library

Anne Holland – Space Science Institute  
Stephanie Vierow-Fields  
Jennifer Hampton  
Willa Kopp-DeVol

## What is a Community Dialogue?

- Think of it like a focus group, but instead of testing a product, you're gauging your community's opinions on your venue, and the services your community needs.
- A Community Dialogue is a loosely facilitated discussion that provides the opportunity for staff and community members to discuss a common, community-based challenge or aspiration.

*"There is no doubt that the Community Dialogues are beneficial to all parties. I think this method should be employed more often when we are considering all kinds of services, initiatives and programs for our community."*



**Lisa Jackson - Youth Services Librarian,  
African-American Research Library and  
Cultural Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL**





- You know how your “frequent flyer” patrons use your venue, but what about the people who don’t come through the door? Are there services they would use that they don’t know about? Is there some reason they don’t feel welcome?
- But it’s more than just getting people in the door, it’s an opportunity to make new partners, and further cement your venues as a community hub.



## What do they look like?

- 1-4 hours
- Participation that represents the community you live in
- People you already know AND people you don't
- Change makers
- But most importantly, they should look relevant for the groups you're working with





## Why do we do them?

- Identify underserved and underrepresented audiences in your community who may not be fully utilizing your services
- Identify potential partners (and funders!!)
- Identify your own biases when it comes to providing services for different communities
- Encourage new patrons but showing everyone who doesn't already participate, that libraries are much more than they think/remember from their childhoods!



## A Successful Dialogue Can Help Your Venue

- Expand your understanding of patrons' and visitors feelings about their local library/ISE venue and its programs, including programming related to STEM
- Obtain meaningful feedback from the community on who visits the venue and why
- Have a conversation about how the venue can better serve ethnically, economically, and geographically underserved and underrepresented audiences
- Better connect with local organizations and potential future partners that have shared interests with your organization and community

# An UnSuccessful or Poorly Attended Dialogue Can Help Your Venue

- Identify gaps in your marketing and outreach plans
- Convince Directors or boards that you need to reach out in new and creative ways
- Understand why certain people/groups didn't feel welcome at the table
- Identify better strategies for reaching out for try #2!

*"Public libraries are a pillar of education for all. We have an opportunity and a responsibility to offer educational experiences for our communities. STEM learning is part of this and highly important for the continued development and health of our society, both intellectually and economically."*

Discover NASA Host Library Staff Member

## Community Dialogue Goals

1. Strengthen informal education venues roles in establishing a STEM Learning Environment
2. Identify underrepresented community groups
3. Identify possible collaborations and partnerships within the community
4. Contribute to developing a flexible Community Dialogue model that all ISE venues can use





## Ground Rules



- 1. Have a “kitchen table” conversation**  
Everyone participates; no one dominates.
- 2. There are no “right answers”**  
Draw on your own experiences, views and beliefs. You do not need to be an expert.
- 3. Keep an open mind**  
Listen carefully and try hard to understand the views of those who disagree with you.
- 4. Help keep the discussion on track**  
Stick to the questions; try not to ramble.
- 5. It is okay to disagree, but don’t be disagreeable**  
Respond to others how you want to be responded to.
- 6. Have fun!**

# How We Got Started with this Model

- It actually started to help ME develop an exhibit and programming (Discover Health)
- Initially invited only library staff and Area Health Education Center Partners
- Some libraries started inviting other groups and community leaders and it became clear that these informal discussions could have a much broader impact





## Key Outcomes from Discover Health Dialogues

- New partnerships with organizations like immigration services, heritage and cultural centers, tribal libraries, Area Health Education Centers, and Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- 2 Libraries added more welcoming signage to their front doors
- 1 library completely changed a display that was sending the wrong message to their target population

## Who to invite?

Science

Area Education

STEM Council

Community College

State Library

Principals

Elementary Teachers

Innovative School Leader

City Council Members

Library Association

Engineering Department at local university

If possible former or current employees at NASA

Home School

Library Director

Library Board

Public Television

# NASA@ My Library Dialogue Feedback



“On May 7, 2018 a group of educators, STEM professionals and community leaders gathered for a roundtable discussion at the Macron County Public Library in an effort to get a better picture of what MCPL’s NASA program could bring to the county and what sorts of needs exist in STEM education here. One of the primary focuses of the discussion was improving access and engagement for STEM, by offering programs that are relevant to the people living in Western North Carolina.” The Franklin Press.



“Community Dialogue attendees have shown strong support for library STEM programs and would like to meet again. We have plans to meet again next year, which allows for enough time to implement new strategies and reflect upon impacts.” –  
Dianna Leighton, Fort Fairfield Public Library



“This dialogue was very useful in setting up collaborations. The attendees weren’t as keen on discussing issues as they were on talking and working together!” Mary Jenkins, Clarksdale Carnegie Public Library

“Participants took off running-I was barely able to get questions in, but it was all good because by themselves they covered most of the questions” – Charles Diede, Fontana Library



“When the facilitator set the tone for a fluid conversation among attendees, they seemed to be more willing to jump in and provide insight and opinions. Participants were encouraged to gather close together (even though the room we were in was quite large) so that it was easier to hear one another and to participate in the discussion”  
Atlas Logan, Gwinnett County Public Library

## Other outcomes from NASA@ My Library Dialogues

- Large increase in library cards created by latinx patrons
- Bilingual story-time ran by new partner (cultural club)
- New partners from multiple sectors (NASA visitor centers, schools, cultural organizations, boys and girls club, VFW, parks and recreation departments, and more!
- Monthly programs with scientists
- Donations from participating individuals and organizations



## Suggestions from libraries who have already conducted these dialogues

- **Plan ahead.** Some libraries weren't able to promote the dialogue far in advance so some key players who would have otherwise attended (State librarian, state level representatives) were unable to make it
- **Invite the people you're wanting to serve.** Be concerned with the idea of programming AT target audiences, rather than involving them in the process.
- **Consider a neutral location.** If the groups who aren't visiting your library are more comfortable elsewhere, go there to meet with them. If they don't want to join a big meeting, have a small one. Be flexible.
- **Remember your role in these dialogues.** You're a convener, and if needed, a facilitator. Don't feel like you need to "run" the meeting. Let the tough questions play out. Let things get heated.
- **Make it FUN!** Make it a party, have snacks, do some activities.

## How can YOU Conduct a Dialogue?

**STAR**net

Science-Technology Activities &  
Resources For Libraries

HOME

ABOUT

EVENTS

PROJECTS

RESOURCES

STEM IN LIBRARIES



SEARCH STEM ACTIVITIES



OVERVIEW



PLANNING



HOSTING



AFTERWARDS



RESOURCES



APPENDICES

### Quick Links:

- [STAR Net Summary](#)
- [Sample Invitation](#)
- [Ground Rules](#)
- [Online Resources](#)

### What Library Staff Say:

"There is no doubt that the Community leaders who  
Dialogues are beneficial to all parties. I think  
this method should be employed more often and  
when we are considering all kinds of services, ces  
initiatives and programs for our community."



Elena Rosenfeldt, Associate Director of Public  
Services, Highland Public Library District, Colorado  
Cultural Center East, Aurora, CO



# How can YOU Conduct a Dialogue?

## Planning Your Community Dialogue



### Who to Invite

The focus should be on bringing in new partners and more voices to the conversation and connecting with groups not normally represented at the library. In order to keep the audience size manageable, try to focus on a few groups for each dialogue. You can schedule more Community Dialogues in the future to gain additional insight.

Invitees could include stakeholders and individuals from groups such as:

- Education (e.g., universities, colleges, community colleges, local school districts, teachers, PTA/PTO, homeschool representatives, afterschool providers, etc.)
- Local government agencies and government labs
- The Chamber of Commerce and business organizations (e.g., tech companies, engineering firms, advertising agencies)

### Section Menu

- [Who to Invite](#)
- [How to Invite](#)
- [Suggested Timeline](#)
- [Where to Hold the Dialogue](#)
- [When and How Long](#)
- [What to Ask](#)

### Library Quote

*"It made sense to us to hold two Community Dialogues, one in the afternoon and one in the evening on the same day. The afternoon event was held for local educators, homeschool parents, 4H groups, etc. People working directly with the kids who would benefit from our efforts. The evening group was held for elected officials, members of local groups such as Optimists, PTO, school administrators, clergy, other area librarians, etc. People who are still connected with the community's needs, but do so on a more administrative level. Both dialogues featured good discussion and I think it was a good way to focus the conversation for each group."*



## How can YOU Conduct a Dialogue?

### Resources



### Popular Quote

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the  
lighting of a fire." ... and NASA is the spark



William Butler Yeats

1. The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation. (2015). *Libraries transform communities: A step-by-step guide to "turning outward" to your community*. Retrieved from:  
[http://www.ala.org/transforminglibraries/sites/ala.org.transforminglibraries/files/content/LTCGettingStarted\\_DigitalWorkbook\\_final010915.pdf](http://www.ala.org/transforminglibraries/sites/ala.org.transforminglibraries/files/content/LTCGettingStarted_DigitalWorkbook_final010915.pdf)
2. Holland, A. (2015) Discover Health/Descubre la Salud Community Dialogues Report. Boulder, CO. Retrieved from:  
<http://www.nc4il.org/papers.html>
3. Before we can have a discussion about facilitating, we must first have an understanding of the dialogue process.  
Retrieved from:  
<http://www.wellesley.edu/religiouslife/resources/east/publication/diversitykit/dialogue/facilitatorsguide#yIM1x57EZm5rL0FC.97>
4. The American Assembly, Columbia University. (2002) *Conducting Your Community Dialogue* from Columbia University.  
Retrieved from:

## To Learn More

Visit: [www.starnetlibraries.org/resources/community-dialogues](http://www.starnetlibraries.org/resources/community-dialogues)

Download our Community Dialogue Guide here:

[www.nc4il.org/images/papers/Community-Dialogue-Guide052318.pdf](http://www.nc4il.org/images/papers/Community-Dialogue-Guide052318.pdf)

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