



SMITHSONIAN ASSOCIATES SCIENCE LITERACY

COMMON FAQs

REGISTRATION

- 1. How do I register?** Because there is no fee to register, all you need to do is enroll in our Inside Science course on Moodle, the online learning platform. Refer to our [Moodle FAQ](#) to learn how to sign up for a Moodle account and enroll in our Inside Science course.
- 2. Is there a fee?** It is free! There is no fee to register for Inside Science. Tickets for participating programs are purchased a la carte.
- 3. Does my enrollment expire?** No, your enrollment does not expire.
- 4. Who do I use as my “supervisor” in the Moodle registration process?** Please use InsideScience@si.edu as the email address for your “supervisor” on Moodle. This step is important for enrolling you in the Inside Science course on the administrative side.

ATTENDING PROGRAMS

- 1. If I’m not earning credits or a certificate, what am I working toward?** The goal of participating in Inside Science is to curate your science experience with Smithsonian Associates, access additional resources and opportunities, and grow your scientific interest. There are ten topic areas of interest for you to use a guideline for your exploration. Once you attend six programs in any category, you’ll earn an online badge through Moodle. You can work toward multiple categories at one time, complete all six in a row before trying a new subject, or even create your own category. As you make connections between topics, you’ll also be making connections to Smithsonian content, current research, and to the Inside Science community.
- 2. Will there be exams, required readings, or assignments?** Your attendance at a program is all that is required to count for completion. The only “quizzes” are for the purpose of validation on Moodle. At each program, a code word will be announced that you will enter on Moodle to prove you attended.
- 3. Are Inside Science programs open to the public or just participants?** Most Inside Science programs are open to the public, with the exception of special events, behind-the-scenes tours, or other exclusive opportunities. The additional resources available for an

Inside Science Program are only available to Inside Science participants through the Moodle online learning platform.

- 4. What qualifies a program for Inside Science?** We review all Smithsonian Associates programs and determine which topics are related to one of the ten categories: Brain Science, Zoology, Our Universe, Paleontology, Smithsonian Science, Environmental Science, Physics, Chemistry, and Science Plus. Science Plus is the category for interdisciplinary topics, like climate change, learning strategies, or the intersections of art and science.

COMPLETING A CATEGORY

- 1. What happens when I attend six programs?** After you've attended six programs in one category and entered the code word for each program, you will earn an online badge for that category. After you've completed one category, you can start with a new category, or try six new programs in the same category. The possibilities are endless!
- 2. Can I create my own category?** Yes! You can create your own category of six programs. For example, you could make a category of programs with women lecturers, a category of programs related to the history of science, or a category of topics related to ethics in science. You don't have to outline which six programs will qualify when you create it—some categories may take longer to accomplish.
- 3. How is the "Create Your Own" category approved?** The Inside Science Administrators will notify you of the approval through feedback on Moodle.
- 4. Can I count programs that I attended before I registered toward completing a category?** You can include programs that occurred up to a month before your registration date.

WHAT IS MOODLE?

- 1. What is Moodle?** Moodle is an online learning program that helps guide with different educational sources. On our Moodle, you will be able to contact other Inside Science participants, get bonus resources like videos and research articles, and keep track of programs you've attended already.

Click here to learn more: [Moodle FAQ](#) and [How to Use Moodle](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

- 1. What is "science literacy?"** According to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, science literacy is the "understanding of scientific processes and practices, familiarity with how science and scientists work, a capacity to weigh and evaluate the products of science, and an ability to engage in civic decisions about the value of science." We believe that everyone has the capacity to be a "science person," and that when empowered with information, individuals can feel comfortable with scientific concepts and

apply their knowledge to the world around them. Smithsonian Associates programs offer opportunities to expand and deepen our scientific literacy.

- 2. What can I look forward to as a participant in Inside Science?** Inside Science participants will have access to expert led-programming across the range of scientific topics drawing from Smithsonian specialists and beyond. You'll have access to our online Moodle space and a community of like-minded participants and opportunities to participate in a lively online learning exchange. You'll also enjoy access to unique behind-the-scenes tours and attend special events.
- 3. Do I earn credits, a certification, or a degree?** You'll earn digital badges as you complete six programs in one topic area, but there are no credits, certifications, or degrees associated with Smithsonian Associates Inside Science initiative. Inside Science is not an accredited program through a university or college and therefore does not issue degrees.
- 4. Where can I give feedback/give suggestions/send ideas?** We would love to know your suggestions for new topics and experts. We also want to what you think about the Inside Science initiative. Give us feedback through Moodle or send us an email (InsideScience@si.edu)!