SharkFinder: Advancing the understanding of evolution and diversity through a flexible scalable citizen science program

Aaron Alford & Jason Osborne, NAPC, February 2014
“Paleontology can be the rosetta stone for helping students understand the importance of science, how science is done, and how all of the sciences tie together.”

-Richard K. Stucky
What about ME?!
A generic scalable education and science tool

The JASON Project Portal

Scientific Questions

Stable, Standards Based, Modular Curriculum

Data Collection, Analytic Tools, Etc.

Online publishing, Communication

Students

Professional Scientists

Peer Reviewed Publication

Museum Curation

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A Spectrum of Research and Education Solutions

- Museum Kit
- Classroom Experience
- Expert Kit
- Explorer Kit
Outcome 1: Accelerated discovery

1904-January 2012
- Species = 44
- Genera = 29
- RATE = .4 Occ. / year

January 2012-Present
- Species = 52
- Genera = 34
- RATE = 4 Occ. / year
Outcome 2: Publications, lectures and awards

- 10+ research publications in preparation
- >20 invited lectures and published abstracts
- White House, Champion of Change Award
Outcome 3: Education

- Engaged school districts in 7 states
- Partnered with JASON Learning / National Geographic / SRF
- Featured at Google SciFoo and other Google functions
- Featured at USA Science and Engineering Festival in conjunction with Scientific American (April 2014)
SharkFinder sponsors and collaborators

Scientific American

Paleo Quest

USGS

CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM

Coral Edge Adventures