Engaging K-12 Learners in Informal Settings
Informal Science Settings

- Everyday environments
- Designed environments
- Programs
Field- and Web-based Butterfly Monitoring Project

- Citizen Science project
- Targets 4-H youth in grades 4-8
Broader Impacts:

- Science interest, understanding & long-term engagement
- Environmental awareness
- 4-H Life Skills/Positive Youth Development
- Citizen Science
- Scientific data
- Understanding of science learning
Learning from Evidence

- Living organisms or digitized collections
  - How do we know?
  - Why do we think like this?
4-H Experiential Learning Model

- Explore
- Learn
- Contribute
- Investigate
Using Digitized Collections to Develop Children’s Skills in:

- Observing
- Posing questions
- Collecting & analyzing data
- Making inferences
- Communicating ideas
Experiences in Informal Settings

• Variety of environments & programs
• Learning is free choice – but less so for programs
  – Intrinsic motivation
  – Interests
  – On-going
• Content
  – Engaging
  – Responsive
  – Connections
• More diversity of ages & backgrounds
Informal Learning

- Occurs over time & across settings
- Idiosyncratic