



WEATHER-READY NATION™



April 2017

**CITIZEN SCIENTIST**

## Contribute Your Time and Talents to Building a Weather-Ready Nation

Do you love the weather? Interested in actually participating in the science? Well, citizen science may just be for you! Citizen science is a form of open collaboration in which anyone can take part in the scientific process to address real-world problems. You can help by taking real-time weather observations, alerting officials about severe weather occurring where you are, and contributing to NOAA research using an app on your phone.

Citizen science involves everyday people and plays a vital role in protecting lives and property. Help build a Weather-Ready Nation by becoming a citizen scientist!

### 4 Ways to Become a Citizen Scientist

#### Become a Storm Spotter under the NWS SKYWARN Program



**SKYWARN**  
STORM SPOTTER

Do you know what to watch for when severe weather threatens? Help keep your community safe by volunteering to become a trained severe storm spotter for NOAA's National Weather Service. Storm spotters report hazardous weather to the NWS, which aids the warning process. Volunteers are trained by NWS meteorologists to identify and describe severe local storms, including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, and floods. Interested? Visit the **NWS SKYWARN** Web site then contact your local NWS office to find out about free local and online training. Many offices require training which typically is about 2 hours.

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/skywarn/>

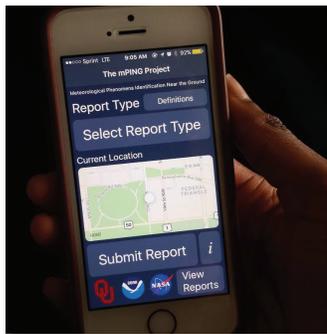
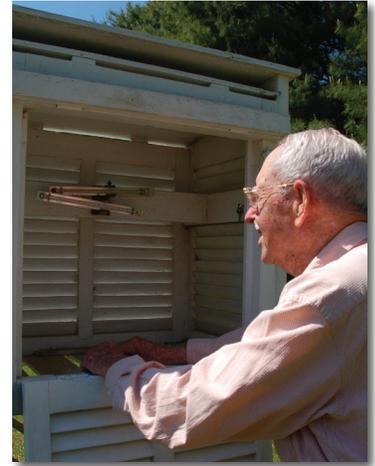




## Become a NWS Cooperative Observer

The **NWS Cooperative Observer Program** is truly the Nation's weather observing network of, by and for the people. More than 8,700 volunteers take observations where they live, work, and play. The NWS depends on thousands of volunteer observers committed to taking observations at the same location for 10 or more years who report weather and climate information on a daily basis using the phone or Internet. NWS provides the training, equipment, and maintenance, you provide daily data! Data from the program supports warnings, forecasts, and helps build a long-term weather history for an area. This program has existed since 1890 and is one of the few programs that measures snowfall and its water equivalent.

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/coop/>



## Use mPING to Report Precipitation

**mPING**. (Meteorological Phenomena Identification Near the Ground project). Weird name, cool app! Users can report the type of precipitation they are experiencing. No need to measure! Use the free mobile app to send reports anonymously. Reports are automatically recorded into a database, which improves weather computer models. The information is even used by road maintenance operations and the aviation industry to diagnose areas of icing.

<http://mping.nssl.noaa.gov/>



## Join the CoCoRaHS Community

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network is a volunteer network of observers who measure precipitation from their backyard. Any age can volunteer.

**CoCoRaHS** sells low cost equipment to help volunteers get started. Observers enter their observations onto a website. Data is used by a wide variety of users ranging from meteorologists and hydrologists to insurance adjusters and engineers.

<http://www.cocorahs.org/>

## NOAA Citizen Science

NOAA Community of Practice works to compile best practices, share resources, and maintain a searchable database of citizen science projects. Find out more at: <http://www.noaa.gov/office-education/citizen-science-crowd-sourcing>

NOAA also supports Citizen Science projects studying marine biology, satellite data verification, water quality, and more!

<https://ccsinventory.wilsoncenter.org/>



Photo: NASA