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**PHILADELPHIA TAKES PART WITH CITIES ACROSS THE GLOBE IN
THE CITY NATURE CHALLENGE APRIL 24-27, 2020**

PHILADELPHIA (04/08/2020) – As citizen and community science initiatives build momentum around the world, this year’s fifth annual [City Nature Challenge](#) will kick off April 24 at 12:01 am in each time zone and run through April 27, 11:59 pm. The global event calls on citizen scientists of all ages and education backgrounds to observe and submit pictures of wild plants, animals, and fungi using the free mobile app [iNaturalist](#). Identification of photographed species will be crowdsourced through the online community April 28 – May 3 and results will be announced on May 4.

Ordinarily a competition among cities, the CNC is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by shifting to a collaborative effort to document urban wildlife. At a time when group events can present health risks to the attendees and their communities, the CNC offers Philadelphians a way to take part individually while collaborating on a worldwide scale. Participants in Philadelphia and neighboring counties (Montgomery, Bucks, Delaware, Gloucester, Camden, and Burlington) can document the wildlife of their basements and back yards, and, to the extent possible (based on recommendations from the city and health officials), they can head off into their neighborhoods and green spaces on their own or with their families.

Nature exists in every city, and one of the best ways to study it is by connecting scientists and the community through citizen science. As global human populations become increasingly concentrated in cities, it’s more important than ever to document urban biodiversity and help ensure the future of plants and wildlife. Large pools of data built through [iNaturalist](#), natural history museums, and science organizations help authorities make informed conservation decisions that allow humans to coexist sustainably with the plants and animals in their neighborhoods.

After launching the first-ever City Nature Challenge in 2016, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHM) and San Francisco’s California Academy of Sciences (CAS) are hosting their fifth effort this year. Last year’s four-day challenge invited participants in over 150 cities to observe and submit pictures of wildlife they encountered using iNaturalist. Participants added nearly 1 million observations of nature to iNaturalist, and scientists continue to use these data to understand and conserve urban wildlife.

For both budding and veteran citizen scientists, participating is easy:

1. Find wildlife. It can be any wild plant, animal, fungi, slime mold, or any other evidence of life (scat, fur, tracks, shells, carcasses!) found in your participating city.
2. Take pictures of what you find using [iNaturalist](#) or your city's chosen platform.
3. Learn more as your observations get identified!

More Information and Education Toolkit

Visit cncphilly.org and citynaturechallenge.com

iNaturalist

Signing up is easy and free. Visit inaturalist.org from your browser, or download iNaturalist from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) store.

Social Media

#CityNatureChallenge

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