

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Summer of Science at ImagineIF**

*Kalispell, MT* –ImagineIF Libraries invites the community to enjoy a summer of science at the library through their Science Connect program. Science Connect is a new experience at ImagineIF that encourages adults and families to make science happen through exploration and participation in real research projects. Through Science Connect, the community is encouraged to take part in Citizen Science, the participation and collaboration of the public in scientific research to increase scientific knowledge.

Last winter ImagineIF began offering two Citizen Science Kits for checkout - Measuring Light in the Night, and Exploring Biodiversity. They also acquired a few Orion Starblast 4.5" Altazimuth Reflector telescopes for checkout. These Citizen Science tools make it easy for anyone of any age to turn their curiosity into action and impact scientific discovery.

In addition to the Science Connect kits, the landscaping around the Kalispell Library has been transformed into a Native Plant Garden featuring sixteen plant species native to Flathead County. The garden will provide opportunities for the community to explore local biodiversity, science and nature for years to come. ImagineIF partnered with Flathead Conservation District and the Center for Native Plants, and gathered help from volunteers to install the garden. There will be an official dedication of the Native Plant Garden this fall.

ImagineIF invites the community to participate in science-themed programs throughout the summer at all locations. The library is offering free STEAM classes designed for toddlers and kids packed with science, art, and hands-on fun. Find out more by picking up a calendar of events at any location or visit at: [imagineiflibraries.org/events/summer-experience](https://imagineiflibraries.org/events/summer-experience).

Teens entering grades 6-12 are invited to free workshops that inspire creativity, connection and exploration, including a science-packed Bioactive Enclosures workshop. Teens will design, develop, and craft their own mini biosphere with live plants, moss, and microfauna. Registration is required for teen events. Sign up at: [imagineiflibraries.eventbrite.com](https://imagineiflibraries.eventbrite.com).

The library is also offering science activities for adults throughout the summer. In addition to hands-on activities set up at the library, ImagineIF is hosting Citizen Science trainings at each library location in partnership with Glacier National Park. These trainings teach participants how to use an app on their smartphone to help scientists track huckleberry growth and understand human-bear conflict. Trainings take place from 3-5pm on July 19 at ImagineIF Columbia Falls, July 20 at ImagineIF Kalispell, and July 21 at the Ark Building behind Bethany Lutheran Church in Bigfork.

Stop by any ImagineIF Libraries location to find out more about these science programs or visit their website at: [imagineiflibraries.org/services/science-connect](https://imagineiflibraries.org/services/science-connect). ImagineIF thanks the ImagineIF Library Foundation for helping fund the Science Connect and Summer Experience programs, and the Friends of ImagineIF Libraries for ongoing support.

ImagineIF Libraries' mission is to provide safe and fair access to information for everyone in Flathead County. For more information, visit [www.imagineiflibraries.org](http://www.imagineiflibraries.org).

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