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SENATE MEMORIAL 13
57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY
Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

A MEMORIAL
REQUESTING EXPANSION OF THE USE OF CITIZEN SCIENCE BY STATE
AGENCIES AND REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE A "CITIZEN
SCIENCE DAY".

WHEREAS, New Mexico is a beautiful state that is rich in
natural resources and filled with individuals who take great
pride in the state's environment; and

WHEREAS, state agencies manage nearly fifty-three million
acres of land but lack the resources to fully monitor this
land; as one student stated, "learning about and caring for the
environment is not a one-person job, and state agencies can't
do it by themselves"; and

WHEREAS, citizen science is a collaboration among
community members, state government and the scientists who
manage the state's public lands in which citizens volunteer to

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1 help collect data about plants, animals, air quality and water
2 quality; as one student said, "bat surveys are what I like to
3 do. I like bats", and another student said, "I would like to
4 work on a citizen science [project] about the impact that
5 runoff water has on soil"; and

6 WHEREAS, citizen science can provide valuable data while
7 fostering scientific literacy and community engagement,
8 ensuring that the state thrives through future generations of
9 environmental stewards; as one student succinctly stated,
10 "citizen science can take place anywhere and anytime and anyone
11 can do it"; and

12 WHEREAS, citizen science can engage the youth, provide
13 exposure to a variety of science-based careers and expand STEM-
14 based education opportunities; as several students said,
15 "everyday people like me can do science" and be "fabulous
16 citizen scientists", and "citizen science can aid children who
17 want to pursue science as a career"; and

18 WHEREAS, in the 2024 legislative session, the house of
19 representatives passed House Memorial 34, which requested
20 several state agencies to create a working group to develop
21 recommendations for expanding the use of citizen science in New
22 Mexico, and this working group prepared a report and is taking
23 steps to integrate citizen science into state agencies; and

24 WHEREAS, encouraging other state agencies to use citizen
25 science can help more people, especially the youth, to become

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1 aware, involved and concerned about real world issues and help
2 time-constrained scientists to collect data; as one student
3 said, "this means a lot of kids can be scientists and can help
4 with research", while another student said, "kids are extra
5 curious"; and

6 WHEREAS, establishing a "Citizen Science Day" will help
7 educate other state agencies and the public about the benefits
8 of citizen science;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
10 OF NEW MEXICO that the senate recognize the importance of
11 citizen science and its role in engaging the youth and the
12 public in science and the outdoors and assisting state agencies
13 in collecting valuable data that are otherwise difficult to
14 collect; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
16 declare a "Citizen Science Day" and recognize the many New
17 Mexico residents and projects that have made significant
18 contributions to citizen science across this state and many
19 more; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
21 department, the New Mexico outdoor recreation division of the
22 economic development department, the higher education
23 department and the New Mexico department of agriculture be
24 requested to review the working group report titled
25 "Recommendations to Expand the Use of Citizen Science in State

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1 Agencies in New Mexico" and provide recommendations to
2 integrate citizen science, especially for the youth, into the
3 agencies; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the public education department, the New Mexico
6 outdoor recreation division of the economic development
7 department, the higher education department and the New Mexico
8 department of agriculture for appropriate distribution.