What is the City Nature Challenge?
The City Nature Challenge (CNC) is an international effort for people to find and document plants and wildlife in cities across the globe. It's a bioblitz-style competition where cities compete against each other to see who can make the most observations of nature, find the most species, and engage the most people. The city of Phoenix and Arizona State University will participate for the first time this year, encouraging students, faculty, staff, and alumni to take a break, get outside, and document the nature in your area.

Why participate?
Nature is all around us, even in our cities! By working together to find and document nature in our area, we can get to know species where they are at and how to protect them. The information and data that you provide through your observations will also be used by the scientific community, giving them a chance to protect our natural environment through research, city planning, and more. So, let's learn more about our local nature and can make our cities a better place – for us and other species!

- Explore the nature around you. Learn about new plants and various species that make up your world.
  - What places at ASU have you not visited?
  - Have you been to the Desert Botanical Gardens?
  - Chart out a new path on Google Maps to explore your area and see new green spaces.
- Learn about social and environmental justice. Study the change needed in the areas around you.
  - Social justice aims to give individuals and groups fair treatment and an impartial share of social, environmental and economic benefits. The concept promotes the fair distribution of advantages and disadvantages within a society, regardless of background and status.
  - Environmental justice deals explicitly with the distribution of environmental benefits and the burdens people experience, at home, at work, or where they learn, play and spend leisure time.
- Discover ecotherapy. Learn about the connection between time spent in nature reducing stress, anxiety, and depression.
  - How does nature make you feel better?
  - How can you engage with nature to positively impact your wellness and mental health?

How to join:
Step One
- Download the iNaturalist app to your smart phone, or visit the iNaturalist website, www.inaturalist.org.

Step Two
- Create an account using your email to setup an iNaturalist username and password.

Step Three
- Join the ASU project.
  - In the app: Tap "More," then "Projects," and search "ASU 2021 City Nature Challenge." Tap "Join."
  - On the website: Type the project names above and click "Join" at the top right of the banner.
  - You can also find these projects by visiting the following links
    - https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/asu-2021-city-nature-challenge

Step Four
- Make observations and share what you've found on iNaturalist.
  - Capture or upload photos of plants, animals and insects, then share observations.
  - Once you have joined the projects, observations are automatically included in our projects.