

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ALLIANCE

ABOUT US

The Natural Science Collections Alliance is a non-profit association that supports natural science collections, their human resources, the institutions that house them, and their research activities for the benefit of science and society.

OUR COMMUNITY

Our members are part of an international community of museums, botanical gardens, herbaria, universities and other institutions that house natural science collections and utilize them in research, exhibitions, academic and informal science education, and outreach activities.

BENEFITS TO MEMBERS



Representation in Washington, DC and Beyond

- Your membership supports advocacy for increased funding and other natural science collections policy interests before Congress, the White House and federal agencies.
- Your membership provides your institution with access to meetings with federal policymakers in Washington, DC.
- Your membership entitles your organization to participate in the Biological Sciences Congressional District Visits every summer.
- Your membership connects your organization to other national organizations promoting scientific research and education.
- Your membership provides your faculty and staff with access to the NSC Alliance Washington Report.

BENEFITS TO MEMBERS



National and Scientific Leadership

- NSC Alliance members are recognized leaders of our community who promote our interests to university leadership, boards of trustees, and other organizational leaders who can advance our endeavors.
- NSC Alliance members serve on committees and task forces that address our collective needs, such as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act advisory committee, the Biodiversity Collections Network Advisory Committee, and the iDigBio External Affairs Committee, among others.
- NSC Alliance members benefit from strategic partnerships. For example, the NSC Alliance entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Florida to cosponsor the annual Digital Data Conference and to assume a leadership role in planning future conferences which can be hosted at member institutions.



Information and Resource Sharing

- NSC Alliance members are connected to other institutional leaders and can share resources and strategies for tackling issues ranging from negotiating permits and creating strategies for engaging institutional leadership to developing impactful outreach and public engagement programs.



Professional Development Opportunities

- The NSC Alliance is the place for curators, scientific staff, and institutional administrators to expand their professional networks.
- Individuals affiliated with NSC Alliance members receive significant discounts on professional development programs (for example, communications and team & interdisciplinary science) offered by our strategic partner, the American Institute of Biological Sciences.

OUR WORK



Recent Accomplishments

- Successfully opposed proposals to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services by leading a joint organizational letter and coordinating a nationwide grassroots letter-writing campaign to Congress.
- Organized educational webinars on repatriation, exploring the return of natural history specimens under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and beyond.
- Helped secure passage of the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act, authorizing critical new investments in the U.S. science and technology enterprise and formalizing federal support for biological collections.
- Contributed to the national media attention focused on the Duke Herbarium and other threatened biodiversity collections.
- Partnered on a national effort involving a series of webinars, workshops, and community consultations to produce an enhanced vision for a Biological Collections Action Center.
- Played a leadership role in establishing the Biodiversity Collections Network and advancing a long-term vision for the use of digitized biodiversity collections data; subsequently contributed to a roadmap toward an integrated, FAIR data network.
- Helped shape the U.S. State Department negotiating position with respect to genetic data benefit sharing regulations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and Nagoya Protocol.
- Contributed to the development of IsoBank — an initiative that includes linkages to natural history museums, specimens, and data.



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