

# PUTTING YOUR SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE TO WORK

As scientists, you have a critical role in promoting quality science education. Your collective expertise in a wide range of fields relevant to evolution and in the process of scientific inquiry make you a respected and valuable resource for your community. By working with local teachers, policy makers, and other scientists and educators you can make a positive impact on the public's understanding of evolution.

## **WORK WITH TEACHERS AND POLICY MAKERS**

Ask if and how you can assist teachers and policy makers to confront challenges to science education. You may be able to help develop curricular materials, talk with students about evolution, or serve as an expert at school board or legislative hearings. Remember that teachers are on the front lines of this public policy issue, so try to be responsive to their needs.

## **WORK WITH OTHER SCIENTISTS**

By acting in cooperation with other scientists, you can act collectively as a resource for your community while limiting the work load on any one individual.

## **ORGANIZE SESSIONS AT SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS**

Raise the profile of science education by organizing a session at your society's annual meeting. Invite teachers to participate in these sessions and create opportunities for scientists and teachers to work together and learn from one another. See the [NCTE Teacher Workshop Blueprint](#) for information on developing education workshops in conjunction with annual scientific meetings.

## **SCIENCE IS NOT JUST FOR SCIENTISTS**

Everyone—not just scientists—should have an understanding of basic science concepts and the scientific method.

- ✿ Work with science and non-science departments to develop an interdisciplinary course or seminar series on the relevance of science to society.
- ✿ Host a lecture series on evolution and broaden the appeal by inviting speakers from across the sciences and humanities. Invite the public!

## **YOUR SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY CAN HELP**

Check if your scientific society has a mentor network, a speaker's bureau, or other programs to put scientists in touch with teachers. Your society can also help you to plan events and connect with other scientists.