Field stations are uniquely positioned to offer place-based informal STEM education to the public. In fact, 98% of the U.S. population lives within 120 miles of a field station and 78% live within 60 miles (Figure 1), and advancing informal STEM learning is a key component of many field station missions and goals.

Through an ongoing, NSF-funded survey of U.S. field stations, we have captured 203 qualities of more than 300 informal learning programs at over 160 field stations so far. To share that information in a tangible and meaningful way with all field stations, we will seed a community-driven online wiki with our survey results (Figure 2).

The wiki will serve three primary purposes:

- share ideas and examples of outreach
- support a collaborative network for informal educators
- disseminate resources for planning outreach

Outreach providers will be able to gather ideas to improve their own offerings and contribute original programming to share with other field stations. Wiki development therefore depends on input from field stations that will use and contribute to this resource.

Questions? Visit www.fieldstationoutreach.info or email rachel.a.short@tamu.edu for more information!

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Give us your thoughts!