



Inspiring the next generation of

Whyville



"Whyville has managed to do the impossible—generate massive interest in science among adolescent girls."

—Christian Science Monitor

What is Whyville?

Launched in 1999, Whyville is a vibrant, kid-safe virtual city designed to engage young people in constructive educational activities while promoting socially responsible behavior.

Whyville works with sponsors like NASA and the National Science Foundation to bring dynamic educational content to kids in an incredibly engaging manner.

The AALAS Foundation is leveraging the power of Whyville to develop a series of fun activities in a virtual laboratory to stimulate curiosity about laboratory animal science and explain how it improves the quality of life of people and animals.

How can Whyville help ensure the future of biomedical research?

The future of biomedical research is renewed through a continuous flow of talent into the nation's science workforce—the people we are counting on to develop new cures and treatments for ailments that impact humans and animals.

Regrettably, research indicates that students, especially girls, lose interest in science as they progress from elementary school to middle school. Thankfully, studies suggest that exposing teens and pre-teens to engaging educational and scientific activities outside of the classroom can bolster interest in science and substantially influence future academic and career choices. Whyville is a powerful tool the AALAS Foundation can use to and promote public understanding, respect, and support for the life sciences.

- Whyville has more than 4.2 million registered citizens.
- About 60,000 new citizens register every month.
- Citizens spend an average of 3.1 hours on site per month.
- The core age composition is 8-15 years old, roughly 70% girls and 30% boys.
- Parents, grandparents, and teachers comprise 10% of users.

How can I help?

The AALAS Foundation relies on your financial support to launch important public outreach programs like Whyville.

"Whyville supports the use of computers by kids the way that scientists use computers: for data collection, data visualization, simulation and modeling, and scientific communication."

—Wendy Li, 6th grade teacher

To make a tax-deductible donation to the AALAS Foundation, please visit aaliasfoundation.org/donate.html.



aaliasfoundation.org/whyville.html