

How to Use ASTC Communities of Practice

Participate in discussions, find and share resources, and connect with museum and informal education professionals around the world with ASTC Communities of Practice (CoP)

Log In or Create Your Account

Visit community.astc.org and click on “sign in” in the upper right corner of your screen.

The screenshot displays the ASTC Community website interface. At the top, a navigation bar includes links for CODE OF CONDUCT, CONTACT US, CREATE AN ACCOUNT, HELP, FAQs, MYASTC, and ASTC.ORG. The 'Sign In' button is highlighted with an orange box and an orange arrow pointing to it. Below the navigation bar is the ASTC logo and a search bar. The main content area features a large banner with the text 'WELCOME TO THE ASTC COMMUNITY' and a description of the community's purpose. Below the banner are three sections: 'BLOG POSTS' (with a message about logging in), 'LATEST DISCUSSIONS' (listing two discussions about the Making & Tinkering COP), and 'RECENT SHARED FILES' (listing two files: 'AI POLICY OFFICE HOURS: SESSION 1 SUMMARY + SESSION ...' and 'EXAMPLE: SNAKE QOL FALL 2025').

CODE OF CONDUCT **CONTACT US** **CREATE AN ACCOUNT** **HELP** **FAQS** **MYASTC** **ASTC.ORG** **Sign In**

ASTC Association of Science and Technology Centers

Home **Communities** **General Forum** **Events** **Browse** **Participate** **Resource Libraries** **Search Information** **Q**

WELCOME TO THE ASTC COMMUNITY

Participate in discussions, share resources, and connect with museum and informal education professionals around the world, all within the ASTC Community. Join the General Forum to discuss any topic, or participate in a Community of Practice to chat about a particular shared interest.

BLOG POSTS

Log in to see this information
Either the content you're seeking doesn't exist or it requires proper authentication before viewing.

LATEST DISCUSSIONS

DS **RE: WELCOME BACK TO THE MAKING & TINKERING COP: WHO'S ...**
By: Dana Schloss , 3 hours ago

Posted in: **Making & Tinkering Spaces in Museums Community of Practice**

Hi! Name : Dana Schloss Institution : Process Curiosity Job Title : Chief Design Officer Last ...

CR **RE: WELCOME BACK TO THE MAKING & TINKERING COP: WHO'S ...**
By: Colleen Ruby , 6 hours ago

RECENT SHARED FILES

ADD

EK **AI POLICY OFFICE HOURS: SESSION 1 SUMMARY + SESSION ...**
By: Eve Klein 17 days ago

Posted in: **Artificial Intelligence**

LM **EXAMPLE: SNAKE QOL FALL 2025**
By: Laurie Miller 21 days ago

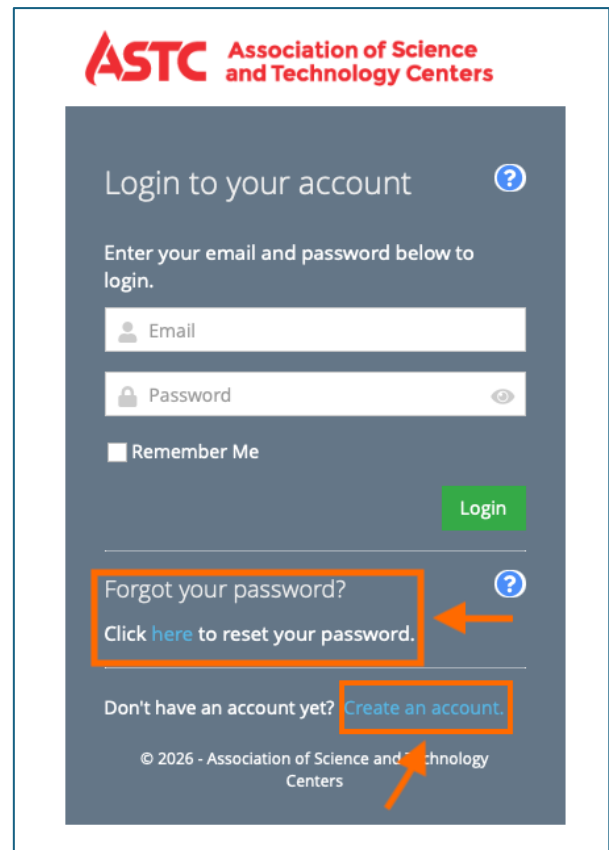
Posted in: **Live Collections**

If you have ever completed a transaction with ASTC, such as registering for a conference, you already have a username and record in MyASTC.

If you use MyASTC for anything already, such as reading *Dimensions* online, the username and password you use for that will be the one you use here. The email address is the one where you receive ASTC communications.

If you don't already have a MyASTC account or have forgotten your password, use the "Create an account" and "Forgot your Password?" prompts on the login screen to either set up your account or reset your password.

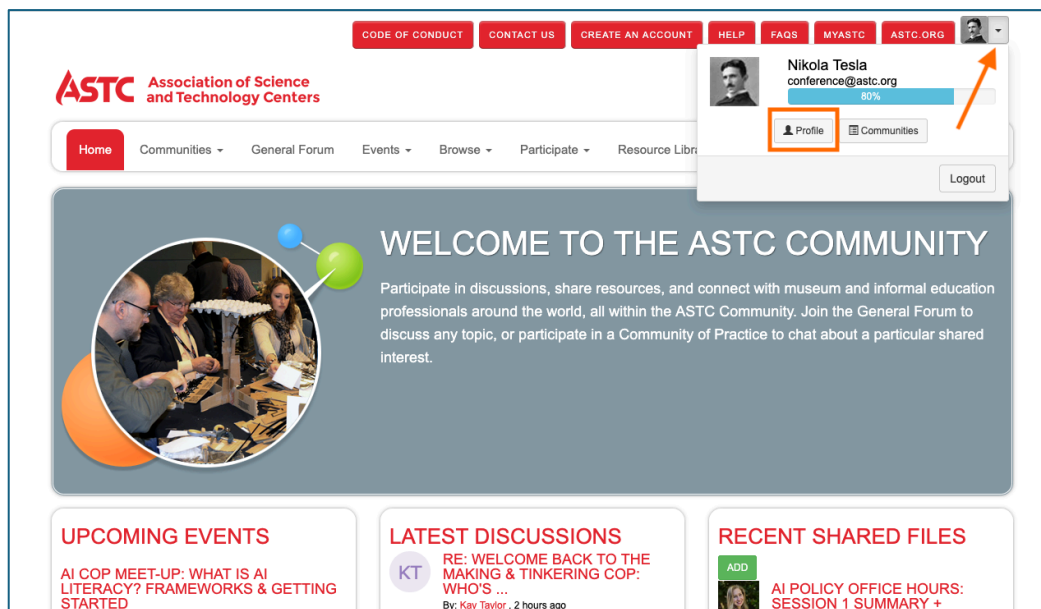
When your account is set up, return to community.astc.org.



The screenshot shows the ASTC login page. At the top is the ASTC logo and the text "Association of Science and Technology Centers". Below this is a "Login to your account" section with a help icon. It prompts the user to "Enter your email and password below to login." and provides input fields for "Email" and "Password", along with a "Remember Me" checkbox and a green "Login" button. Below the login section, there are two links: "Forgot your password? Click [here](#) to reset your password." and "Don't have an account yet? [Create an account.](#)". Both links are highlighted with orange boxes, and orange arrows point to them from the right. A copyright notice at the bottom reads "© 2026 - Association of Science and Technology Centers".

Set Up Your Profile

Once you have logged in, you can set up your profile by clicking on the ▼ in the upper right corner of your screen and then on "profile."



The screenshot shows the ASTC community homepage. At the top is a navigation bar with links: CODE OF CONDUCT, CONTACT US, CREATE AN ACCOUNT, HELP, FAQs, MYASTC, and ASTC.ORG. Below this is the ASTC logo and the text "Association of Science and Technology Centers". The main navigation bar includes links: Home, Communities, General Forum, Events, Browse, Participate, and Resource Library. The main content area features a "WELCOME TO THE ASTC COMMUNITY" banner with a circular image of people at a table. Below the banner are three sections: "UPCOMING EVENTS" (AI COP MEET-UP: WHAT IS AI LITERACY? FRAMEWORKS & GETTING STARTED), "LATEST DISCUSSIONS" (RE: WELCOME BACK TO THE MAKING & TINKERING COP: WHO'S ... By: Kay Taylor, 2 hours ago), and "RECENT SHARED FILES" (AI POLICY OFFICE HOURS: SESSION 1 SUMMARY +). In the upper right corner, a user profile dropdown menu is open, showing the user's name "Nikola Tesla", email "conference@astc.org", and a progress bar at 80%. The menu has two options: "Profile" (highlighted with an orange box) and "Communities". A "Logout" button is also visible. An orange arrow points to the dropdown menu icon in the top right corner.

The My Profile tab includes options to upload your photo; add information such as job history, awards, and education; and link to any of your social media accounts you'd like to share.

Don't forget to click "Save" if you make changes.

The screenshot displays the ASTC user interface. At the top, a navigation bar includes links for CODE OF CONDUCT, CONTACT US, CREATE AN ACCOUNT, HELP, FAQs, MYASTC, and ASTC.ORG, along with a user profile icon. Below this is the ASTC logo and a search bar. The main content area shows the profile of 'Nikola Tesla', a Scientist at the Suncentric Science Museum. The 'My Profile' tab is selected, with other tabs like My Connections, My Contributions, My Account, and My Inbox visible. A red arrow points to the 'My Profile' tab with the text 'Add your profile information in the My Profile tab'. Another red arrow points to the 'ACTIONS' button next to the profile picture with the text 'Add a photo using the Actions button in the My Profile tab'. The profile includes sections for Contact Details (Suncentric Science Museum, Court Of Emperor Rudolf II, Prague), Social Links, Bio (Inventor, engineer, physicist, and futurist), Import From LinkedIn, Education, Job History, Professional Associations, and Honors and Awards. Each section has an 'Add' button.

CODE OF CONDUCT CONTACT US CREATE AN ACCOUNT HELP FAQs MYASTC ASTC.ORG

ASTC Association of Science and Technology Centers

Home Communities ▾ General Forum Events ▾ Browse ▾ Participate ▾ Resource Libraries Search Info search Q

Nikola Tesla
Scientist, Suncentric Science Museum

My Profile ▾ My Connections ▾ My Contributions ▾ My Account ▾ My Inbox

Refresh Member Data

Bio
Inventor, engineer, physicist, and futurist

Import From LinkedIn
Bring in your information from LinkedIn®
Import Your Info

Education
Share where and when you received your education
Add

Job History
Provide an overview of employment experience
Add

Professional Associations

Honors and Awards

Contact Details
Suncentric Science Museum
Court Of Emperor Rudolf II
Prague
Work: +1 234567890
conference@astc.org

Social Links
Link to other social media accounts
Add ▾

ACTIONS ▾

Add a photo using the Actions button in the My Profile tab

Add your profile information in the My Profile tab

Join Communities

Discuss any topic in the General Forum or join a Community of Practice (CoP) to chat about a particular shared interest. From the Communities tab on your profile page, go to All Communities in the pull-down menu for a full list of CoPs, or My Communities to view the CoPs you have already joined. The Communities menu is also available from the community.astc.org home page. To join a new CoP, pull down to All Communities.

The screenshot shows the ASTC website header with navigation links: CODE OF CONDUCT, CONTACT US, CREATE AN ACCOUNT, HELP, FAQs, MYASTC, and ASTC.ORG. The main navigation bar includes Home, Communities (highlighted with a red box and an orange arrow pointing to its dropdown menu), General Forum, Events, Browse, Participate, Resource Libraries, and Search Info. The dropdown menu for Communities lists All Communities, My Communities, and Notifications. Below the navigation bar, a user profile for 'Scientist, Suncentric Science Museum' is displayed, featuring a profile picture, a bio, and contact details. The profile also shows a 'Bio' section with a pencil icon and an 'Import From LinkedIn' section with a button labeled 'Import Your Info'.

Click the blue “Join” button to start participating in a group.

The screenshot displays three Communities of Practice (CoPs) on the ASTC website. Each CoP entry includes a title, a brief description, a 'Join' button, and statistics for Discussions, Libraries, and Members. The first CoP is 'Advocacy and Public Policy Community of Practice' with 93 Discussions, 14 Libraries, and 100 Members. The second CoP is 'Advocates for Diversity Community of Practice' with 461 Discussions, 33 Libraries, and 539 Members. The third CoP is 'Artificial Intelligence' with 43 Discussions, 2 Libraries, and 52 Members. Each CoP also shows the date when the last person joined.

Community of Practice	Discussions	Libraries	Members
Advocacy and Public Policy Community of Practice	93	14	100
Advocates for Diversity Community of Practice	461	33	539
Artificial Intelligence	43	2	52

CoP HOME PAGE

Here's an example of a CoP home page. Use the tabs at the top of the page to navigate to the different sections of the CoP, including Discussion, Resources, Events (which could include webinars, meet-ups, etc.), and Members, which includes everyone who is in that CoP. You can also join a CoP from its home page if you haven't already joined it.

Natural History Network

Settings

Use the tabs to access different sections

Community HomeDiscussion 31Resources 8Events 0Members 68

Join Community

Click to join the community

LATEST DISCUSSION POSTS

DESERT DIALOGUES - OPP FOR RURAL MUSEUMS IN THE WE

Hi all! This professional learning opportunity came across my radar today and I thought it might be of interest to Natural History folks.
<https://highdesertmuseum.org/desert-dialogues/> Desert Dialogues, run by the High Desert Museum in Bend, ...

RE: PHENOMENA FIRST APPROACH IN NH MUSEUMS

We have been working closely with our local school district to implement PD and develop programs that align with the new science curriculum that is being implemented across all grade levels. It's a Smithsonian designed curriculum, and naturally has lots ...

RE: ALL THINGS AI AND NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS

We are in the "wish we were doing more" camp. We have one person on staff who works in digitization of collections, collections, portals, and dabbles in AI, but we know there is so much more to do, including identifying training for future museum leaders ...

RE: WELCOME AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF!

Hello from sunny and cold (for Texas) Waco! I am excited to be part of this group, and to help encourage ourselves and our visitors to take a closer look at the natural world through our work. Again, thank you to Jamie and the ASTC staff for making ...

RE: ALL THINGS AI AND NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS

Hi, Preeti! Yes to both: 1) our Youth (ages 13-18) are primarily focused on interpreting exhibits, collections, and programs in our museums (incl our Natural History Museum), but they do engage in scientific practices in that work. 2) Our education, ...



Welcome to the ASTC Natural History Network, a place to make connections, share and access knowledge and resources, and contribute to advancing the field.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADD

MARCH 4, 2026 MEET-UP @ 2:00 ET!

By: [Jamie Bell](#), 21 hours ago

Hello All,

Please save the date- Wednesday, March 4 @ 2:00 ET for the next online Natural History Network meet-up. Lots of potential juicy topics to discuss. More coming soon...

Jamie

NEXT MEET-UP ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 @ 2:00 ET

By: [Jamie Bell](#), 2 months ago

Hello All!

A reminder that we will be hosting our next Network meet-up, tomorrow @ 2:00 ET/1:00CT/12:00MT/11:00PT

On the agenda are field updates, including one from the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, where a recent 'day of learning' was dedicated to Artificial Intelligence, a brief presentation by ASTC staff on our Seeding Action initiative in which 15 NHMs currently participate, and breakout discussions on topics that were raised at the first meeting and ideas for conference session proposals. We're looking forward to reconnecting with those who attended last time, and welcome anyone for whom the Network or these meet-ups will be new. There is still plenty of time to register [here!](#)

Also, please read our new Dimensions article about the Network [here](#).

Best, Jamie

LATEST SHARED FILES

ADD

DECEMBER 10, 2025 MEET-UP NOTES

By: [Jamie Bell](#) 2 months ago

Hello All, Here are notes from our Dec. 10, 2025 (2nd ever) virtual meet-up. Thank you to all who attended ...

2 ARTICLES FROM THE JOURNAL OF MAMMOLOGY

By: [Jamie Bell](#) 3 months ago

DISCUSSION FORUM

Each CoP has a discussion forum. To post a new message thread, use the green Post New Message button. To view and reply to messages in a thread that's already active, click on the title in the Thread Subject column.

The screenshot shows the 'ASTC Natural History Network' forum page. At the top, there are navigation tabs: 'Community Home', 'Discussion' (31), 'Resources' (8), 'Events' (0), and 'Members' (68). Below these are filters for 'MOST RECENTLY UPDATED', '10 PER PAGE', and a green 'Post New Message' button. An orange arrow points to this button. The main content is a table with three columns: 'Thread Subject', 'Replies', and 'Last Post'. The table lists several threads, including 'Desert Dialogues - opp for rural museums in the West', 'Phenomena First Approach in NH museums', 'All things AI and Natural History Museums', 'Welcome and introduce yourself!', 'A new project - Investigating serendipity', 'ISO Session Partners - "Naturalist" Identity/Role in Field', and 'People planning any Natural History Community ASTC 2026 Session Proposals?'. An orange arrow points to the 'Welcome and introduce yourself!' thread title, with a text label 'click on the title to view and reply to a discussion thread'.

Thread Subject	Replies	Last Post
Desert Dialogues - opp for rural museums in the West	0	8 days ago by Jenny Crayne
Phenomena First Approach in NH museums	2	17 days ago by Andrea Motto Original post by Preeti Gupta
All things AI and Natural History Museums	5	17 days ago by Andrea Motto Original post by Preeti Gupta
Welcome and introduce yourself!	13	20 days ago by Trey Crumpton Original post by Jamie Bell
A new project - Investigating serendipity	0	12-15-2025 by Preeti Gupta
ISO Session Partners - "Naturalist" Identity/Role in Field	0	12-13-2025 by Mollie Kreb-Mertig
People planning any Natural History Community ASTC 2026 Session Proposals?	2	12-08-2025 by Debra Everett-Lane Original post by Nicole Burt

RESOURCE LIBRARY

Each CoP also has a resource library, which can be accessed from the "Resources" tab on the CoP's home page, where you can view or upload resources.

The screenshot shows the 'Resources' tab of the ASTC Natural History Network. At the top, there are navigation tabs: 'Community Home', 'Discussion' (31), 'Resources' (8), 'Events' (0), and 'Members' (68). Below these are filters for 'Add a resource' and a blue 'Create Entry' button. The main content is a grid of resource cards. The first card is '2 Articles from the Journal of Mammology' by Jamie Bell, dated 11-07-2025 13:34. The second card is 'Repository of Federally-Funded Natural History...' by Jamie Bell, dated 10-21-2025 13:29. The third card is 'Staff perceptions of behind the scenes tours in natural histor...' by Megan Ennes, dated 10-24-2025 13:10. The fourth card is 'Museum Leadership for Engaging, Equitable Educati...' by Madiyn Larson, dated 10-28-2025 00:59. Below the grid, there are filters for 'Filter By: File Type' and 'Sort By: Date Created - Descending'. A sidebar on the left shows a list of folders: 'Main (1)', 'Readings: Books & Articles, (2)', 'Peer Reviewed Research (4)', 'Media: Videos, Podcasts, Recordings, etc', 'Guides & Toolkits (0)', 'Evaluation Reports (0)', and 'Databases & Repositories (1)'. An orange arrow points to the 'Download' button on the 'December 10, 2025 Meet-Up notes' card, with a text label 'Download a resource'.

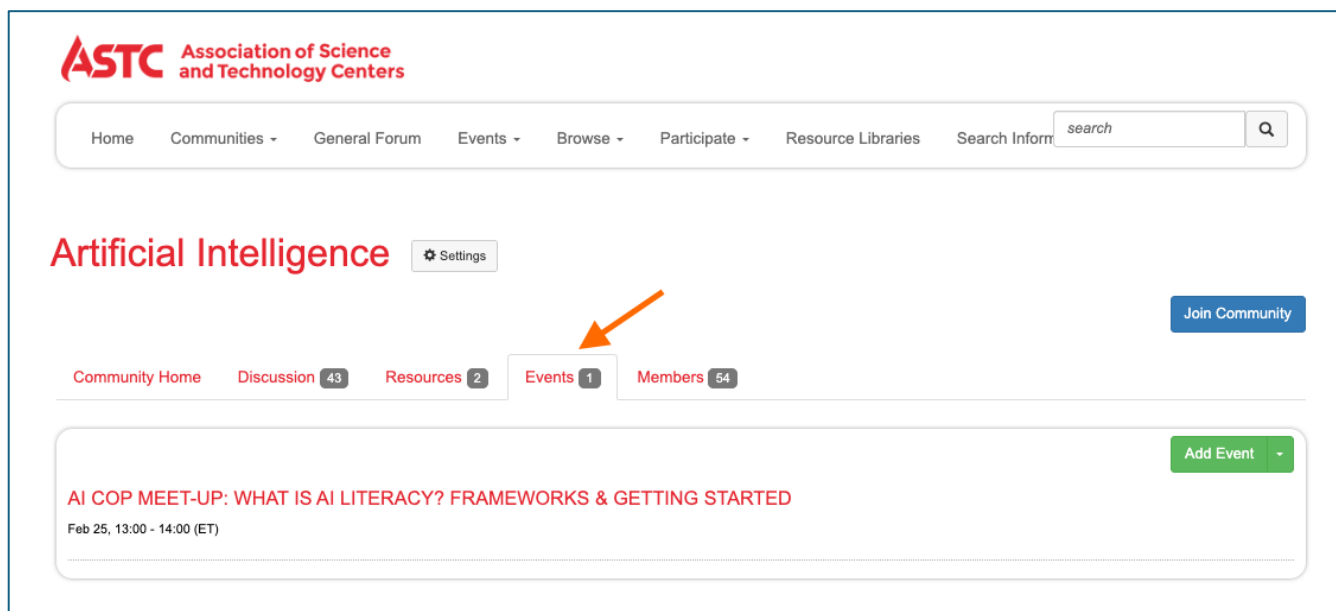
Filter By: File Type

Sort By: Date Created - Descending

Download a resource

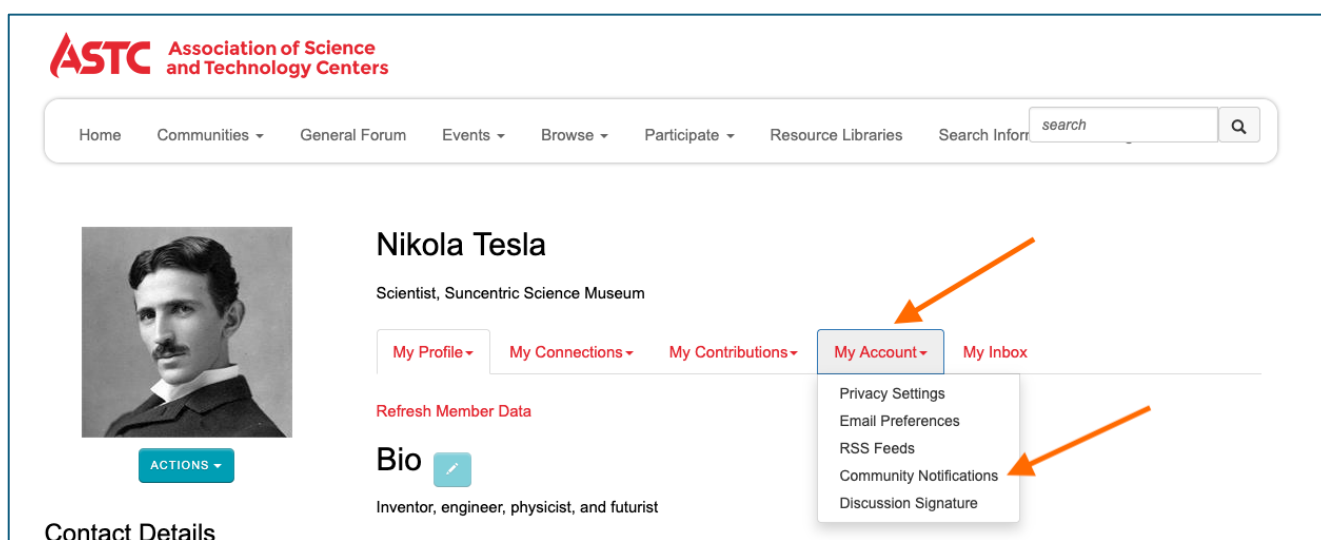
EVENTS

Use the Events tab on a CoP's home page for a list of upcoming webinars, meet-ups, sessions, etc.



Notification Settings

To customize your notification preferences, use the Communities tab on your profile page or on the community.astc.org home page, and click on Notifications in the Communities menu. You can also access your notification settings from the My Account tab on your profile page using Community Notifications.



Depending on your notification settings, you will receive an email when new discussions or responses are posted to the CoPs you've joined. You can easily change the frequency of the emails you receive to daily or weekly, or you can opt out of CoP emails entirely. If you opt for a weekly digest, you can choose which day you want to receive that.

Nikola Tesla
Scientist, Suncentric Science Museum

[My Profile](#) [My Connections](#) [My Contributions](#) [My Account](#) [My Inbox](#)

Community Notifications

Community notification will be delivered to your primary address:
conference@astc.org

To receive specific community notifications at an address other than your primary, set override(s) where desired.

Daily Consolidated Community Digest: [?](#)
Deliver to your primary address.

Weekly Consolidated Community Digest: [?](#)
Deliver on **MONDAY** to your primary address. [change](#)

Discussion Email: [?](#)
You have no override email addresses for discussion emails. [add override addresses](#)

Notification Settings

☒ Yes ☐ No Automatically set community discussion emails to "No Email" when a community is added to a consolidated digest.

3 Communities [COMMUNITY NAME A-Z](#)

Community	Discussion Email	Consolidated Daily Digest	Consolidated Weekly Digest
Adult Engagement	NO EMAIL	☒	☒
Energy Literacy in Science Centers	Real Time Daily Digest Plain Text No Email	☒	☒
General Forum	NO EMAIL	☒	☒

In addition to frequency, you can also select the type of email you receive.

- **Real Time** sends an email every time a new message is posted. You can reply to discussions through the ASTC Community site.
- **Daily Digest** sends you one email each day consolidating all of the posts from the previous day. You can reply to discussions through the ASTC Community site.
- **Plain Text** sends real-time, plain text versions of the posts. This option also allows you to reply without logging into a web browser, but it does not allow you to include attachments with your post.
- **No Email** allows you to be part of the group without having emails sent to you. You can still post and read messages by logging into the ASTC Community.

Questions?

If you have questions or experience any problems as you create your account and navigate the website, please contact us at membership@astc.org.

Thank you for participating and enriching the ASTC community!

community.astc.org