

# Activity Organizer's step-by-step guide for megathon

Joining the Stall Catchers MEGATHON on April 13, 2019? Here's everything you need to know!

## WHAT:

[Stall Catchers](#) is a citizen science game speeding up Alzheimer's research. In the game, you help analyze real research data from Cornell University. The participants themselves are not being studied. Learn more about the game in the [additional materials](#) below, and [here](#).

This April 13, Stall Catchers is going MEGA. Thousands of participants from public libraries, schools, retirement communities and other organizations will join forces for one hour to answer a single research question about Alzheimer's disease that would normally take an entire year in the lab.

**Goal:** To accelerate Alzheimer's research

**Task:** Watch movie clips and identify "stalls" (clogged blood vessels) that you observe

**Age range:** 6-100+

## WHEN:

The Megathon will take place on Saturday, April 13, 1:30 to 3:30 PM EST (timezone converter [here](#)). You may also choose to get involved in Stall Catchers as much or as little as desired before and after the event.

At your retirement community! You will need a physical space set up with devices and internet access for the event. See the step-by-step guide below for details.

## WHY:

Citizen Science is a new community activity that anyone can do and that provides meaningful engagement in real life problem solving. The activities allow everyday citizens to help scientists complete meaningful research projects that solve societal problems without leaving their own homes.

This is an excellent opportunity for our retired citizens to stay active and give back to society with projects that fit their interests and on a schedule that fits their availability. It's like trivia night, except you are doing good in the world!

By getting involved in the Megathon, you will open the door to a wide variety of other ongoing Citizen Science activities that are easy to plan, fun to participate in, and make beneficial contributions to society.

## HOW:

All you need to participate is sign up and get your community playing Stall Catchers on the day. See the step-by-step guide below to learn how to set up and get ready for the event.

**Special equipment needed:** Computers or mobile devices with internet access

**Cost:** Free

[Planning checklist](#)

[Running the meet-up on the day](#)

[Additional materials](#)

[Stall Catchers fact sheet](#)

[Stall Catchers science](#)

Email us at [megathon@eyesonalz.com](mailto:megathon@eyesonalz.com) if you need any additional guidance or support!

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## Planning checklist

- ☐ **Sign up here:** [megathon.us](https://megathon.us).
- ☐ **Schedule the activity** for April 13, 1:30 to 3:30pm EST (timezone converter [here](#)).
- ☐ **Consider what space you are going to use:** any space works if it can be set up with desktop computers and/or comfortable for participants who bring their own laptops and other devices. Find out more about the details of setting up the event space in [the FAQ](#).
- ☐ **Create a team on [Stall Catchers](#).** [Here's](#) the instructions.
- ☐ **Invite everyone to join your team ahead of time**, if you can. You can send the invite link from your team page to your community members to make it easy. [Here's](#) the instructions how.  
*Alternatively, you can use one Stall Catchers account and show the game on a big screen, asking participants to indicate the answers by a show of hands, and "vote" on each movie. See [this two minute clip](#) for an example of such an activity.*
- ☐ **Check out [the FAQ](#)** to learn more about how to set up and run the event, and feel free to email your own questions to [megathon@eyesonalz.com](mailto:megathon@eyesonalz.com)!
- ☐ **Watch [this video](#)** for an example Stall Catchers activity event in a retirement community.
- ☐ **Participate in the Megathon** on April 13, 1:30 to 3:30 PM EST (timezone converter [here](#)), and help us make a dent Alzheimer's research!
- ☐ **Show the livestream and the Megathon leaderboard** during the event using projectors or large external displays. The livestream will introduce and kickoff the Megathon, "visit" various teams around the country during the event, and then discuss the accomplishment and research outcome at the end,

*Optionally:*

- ☐ If you'd like to be part of the Megathon live stream, in addition to having a projector as described above, you will also need a webcam, and a microphone. You will receive more info about the live stream closer to the event, via your registered email address, and on [megathon.us](https://megathon.us).
- ☐ **Spread the word about the event on Facebook, Twitter** or any other media to other retirement facilities in your network! You can use this message:

*There's a game that anyone - from young to old - can play to speed up Alzheimer's research! On April 13, 100 000 people will have one hour to answer a single research question, getting us closer to a cure. You and your community can join too! Register at [megathon.us](http://megathon.us)*

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## Running the meet-up on the day

- ❑ **Introduce [Stall Catchers](#).** You can use the Stall Catchers fact sheets below to help you.
- ❑ **Show the [intro video](#).** Answer questions if there are any.
- ❑ **Have everyone register and make sure they join your team!** If you set up your Stall Catchers team in advance (recommended), share the invite link with the participants to make it easier. [Here's](#) the instructions how.

Alternatively, you can use one Stall Catchers account and show the game on a big screen, asking participants to indicate the answers by a show of hands, and “vote” on each movie. See [this two minute clip](#) for an example of such an activity.

- ❑ **Start catching!** Remember to keep encouraging the participants, and checking in with them to see if everyone is doing OK.
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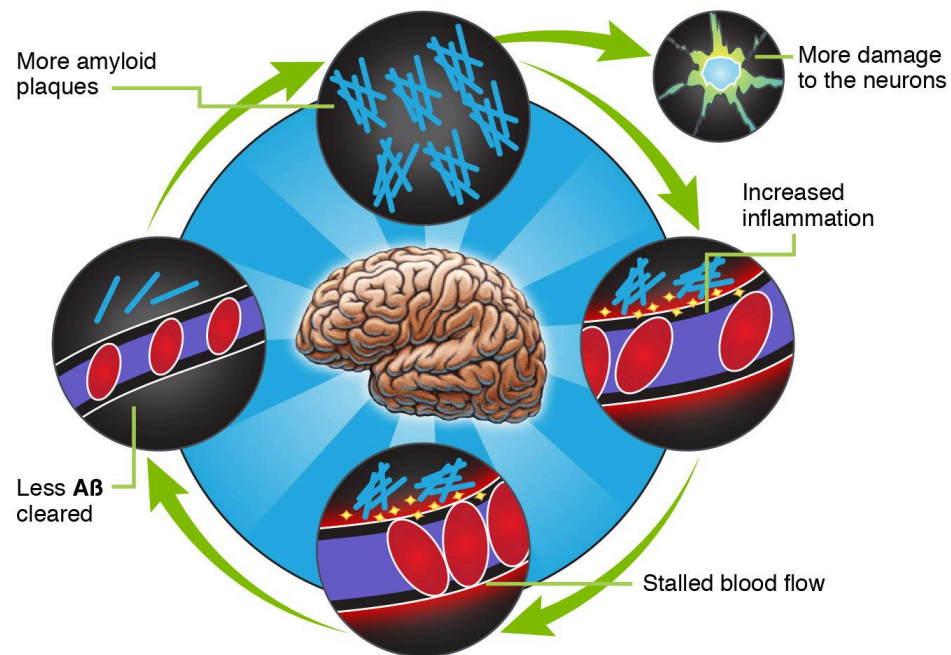
## Additional materials

### Stall Catchers fact sheet

- Stall Catchers is an online game that allows **everyone to contribute to Alzheimer's research**
  - **Anyone can play Stall Catchers** - from kids to their grandparents, no specific knowledge or scientific background is required
  - In Stall Catchers players are **helping researchers at Cornell University to analyze Alzheimer's research data** - players themselves are not studied
  - Stall Catchers participants help analyze movies of blood vessels in **live mouse brains**
  - By viewing microscope-acquired movies of a live mouse brain, players are helping to **find stalls - blocked blood vessels in the brain where blood is not flowing**
  - **Don't be afraid to make mistakes!** We have methods in place to extract value from all your answers, right or wrong, so there is no way you can mess up the research
  - Every contribution, large or small, helps researchers get closer to **understanding the relationship between stalls and Alzheimer's disease**. This fundamental understanding **could lead to a potential - and first ever - treatment for Alzheimer's disease**
  - But to get to a treatment, **many more research questions need to be answered**. They cannot be answered fast enough if the researchers work on it alone, so need YOUR help!
  - Stall Catchers is a chance for friends, families, caregivers & people living with Alzheimer's themselves to **directly fight the disease that affects them and their loved ones**
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## Stall Catchers science

- Vessel movies in Stall Catchers are generated from state-of-the-art two-photon microscope images
- Stalls have been demonstrated to occur in up to 2% of capillaries in AD-affected mice
- Stalls could be linked to ~30% reduced blood flow in the brain in AD patients
- Reversing stalls reduces AD symptoms in mice, including memory loss and mood changes
- One the ways stalls could drive AD is by reducing clearance of amyloid beta protein ( $A\beta$ ) leading to accumulation of neurotoxic amyloid plaques



- Understanding the molecular mechanisms that drive stalls will help identify drugs that prevent or disrupt them without harming the organism
- Stall Catchers helps us look for the reasons behind stalls in the brains of mice, and test drugs that could prevent AD and/or reduce disease symptoms, at a much faster rate than in the lab
- Through Stall Catchers, we can test drugs that are already being used to treat other diseases, some of which could effectively reduce stalls, potentially enabling off-label use to treat Alzheimer's
- With the help of citizen scientists, we could reduce the time to discover Alzheimer's treatment targets from decades to just a few years

### More Stall Catchers science resources:

- [Science of Stall Catchers YouTube playlist](#)
- ["About - Science" page on Stall Catchers](#)
- ["Science" category on the EyesOnALZ blog](#) with the newest science updates
- [EyesOnALZ forum "Science" category](#) where you can ask your own questions