

Focus on Phoenix Scientists: Dr. David Hondula

Scientists at Arizona State University gather information all around Phoenix to learn about being a city in the Sonoran Desert. Dr. David Hondula is a scientist who wants to answer this question: **“What temperatures do people experience as they go about daily life in the city?”**

David is part of a team of scientists that do different activities to try to answer this question.

- One of the team’s favorite activities is to ask people to carry thermometers with them for a few days in a row.
- They ask many different types of people so they can see what it’s like to work in different jobs, live in different parts of the city, or even have different feelings about hot weather. The thermometers they give people to carry are special ones that keep track of the temperature they measured.
 - Special instructions are given to the people who get thermometers to carry or wear in certain places on their clothing.
 - After a few days, the scientists collect the thermometers from people and ask for more information about what they were doing when they had the thermometer and where they were in the city.
- As the scientists repeat these activities during different seasons and with different participants, they get a better sense of the temperature conditions that people are experiencing in hot weather and how that compares to more normal conditions.



The information might help the city make better decisions about what it does to help keep people cool and comfortable, like planting trees.

Talk with others and together write an explanation of why David and his team have to give special instructions to people about how to carry thermometers when they have them for a few days.

