HOW TO BUILD THE CUBE:

1. Cut 24 6-inch pieces of solid THHN wire. Bend the pieces of wire in half to form an L-shaped curve.

2. Hold two pieces of wire and feed them halfway into one end of an aluminum tube. Adjust the exposed pieces of wire to make a three-way connector.

3. Attach aluminum tubes to your connector pieces. One aluminum tube will have two pieces of wire inserted into the end. The other tubes will only have one wire connector piece. An additional piece of wire will need to be threaded into these pieces to provide extra support for the corner joint. (See inset image to the right.)

4. Repeat Step 3 until you have built a cube. Remember to use additional pieces of wire to strengthen joints with only one wire connector.

5. Deploy your cube in a nearby natural area. Once your cube is placed, begin observing the organisms found in and around your cube. Record your observations in your field notebook and upload your pictures to iNaturalist.

To join the International Biocube Project, register your cube with the Smithsonian Biocube Project here: www.inaturalist.org/projects/biocubes.

You can also build a Biocube with materials you find around your house. Keep your cube size to 1 cubic foot to ensure consistent study-area size and data collection.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 12 aluminum tubes (¼-inch diameter, 12-inch length, .014-inch wall)
- 24 6-inch pieces of solid THHN wire (14 AWG)
- 2 tent stakes to anchor your cube to the ground

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