

BECOME A

VOLUNTEER WATER QUALITY MONITOR



Did you know the presence of pollution-sensitive organisms like the stonefly nymph could be a sign of good water quality in streams? Would you like to learn more about the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program and the quality of Missouri's water resources? Look inside to find out how you can get involved.



MISSOURI STREAM TEAM

◆ EDUCATION ◆ STEWARDSHIP ◆ ADVOCACY ◆



What is the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring (VWQM) Program?

It is an opportunity for citizens to learn about water quality and participate in one of the Missouri Stream Team's most popular activities. The VWQM Program provides each volunteer with training and equipment for monitoring the physical, biological, and chemical parameters of Missouri's rivers and streams.

Why was this Program developed?

- ◆ To inform Missourians about the condition of Missouri's stream resources.
- ◆ To establish a group of trained volunteers who provide baseline water quality data for streams statewide.
- ◆ To provide a knowledge base for citizen groups interested in improving water quality.
- ◆ To connect concerned citizens to one another so they can work together towards a common goal.
- ◆ To help halt degradation of our stream resources by changing people's attitudes and behaviors.

What's in it for me?

Fun, knowledge, and the satisfaction of helping to protect our stream resources are only some of the benefits of volunteer monitoring.

Everyone has a responsibility to protect our environment. You can make a difference by volunteering as a water quality monitor! We need everyone's eyes, ears, and voices to take better care of Missouri's streams.

Who can participate?

Volunteer water quality monitoring is open to anyone who is concerned about the quality of Missouri streams and is willing to commit time and energy for training and monitoring. It is an excellent activity for Scout groups, 4-H Clubs, teachers, landowners, and families.



Where will I monitor?

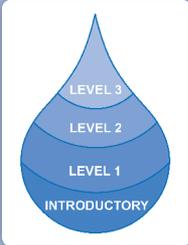
You may select your own monitoring site or we can help you locate a site on a stream where state agencies have informational needs. Most monitors select a site on a stream that is of personal interest to them.

What's involved in monitoring a stream?

- ◆ Assessing physical aspects of streams using maps, visual surveys, and discharge measurements.
- ◆ Biological monitoring, which involves collecting aquatic invertebrates and calculating a water quality rating based on the presence or absence of pollution-sensitive organisms. Examples of aquatic invertebrates include crayfish, mussels, snails, aquatic worms, and immature stages of insects such as mayflies, caddisflies, and midges.
- ◆ Analyzing water samples for chemical parameters such as dissolved oxygen, nitrate, pH, conductivity, and temperature.

How much training do I need?

The Stream Team Program offers four levels of training. Each class will take approximately one day of your time. Because each workshop builds upon the previous one, you will need to take each level of training in sequence beginning with an Introductory workshop. The Introductory workshop focuses on watershed education, biological monitoring, and how to measure stream discharge. As your interest and experience grow, you may choose to attend additional training.



Additional training may include:

- ◆ Chemical testing
- ◆ Physical monitoring
- ◆ Training to improve identification of aquatic macroinvertebrates
- ◆ Quality assurance/quality control on sampling techniques and results



What equipment will I need?

As you progress through each level of training, you will receive a training notebook and reference materials, as well as the sampling and safety equipment needed for conducting water quality monitoring.



How often will I monitor?

Volunteers are asked to collect data at their selected site at least two to four times a year, using the techniques and equipment provided by the VWQM Program.

How will the information I collect be used?

- ◆ To establish baseline water quality information for Missouri's stream resources.
- ◆ To inform and educate people about the condition of our streams.
- ◆ To identify long-term trends in statewide water quality and document changes over time.
- ◆ To locate potential and existing water quality problems and alert state agencies of situations that may require more extensive monitoring efforts.



How do I become a Volunteer Water Quality Monitor?

It is actually very simple, but requires some time and commitment on your part. The first step is to sign up for one of our Introductory workshops held each spring statewide. The schedule for these workshops can be found on our website www.mostreamteam.org. Please note the registration deadline for each workshop. Space is limited for these training classes, so register early!

Where can I get more information?



Stream Team Website
www.mostreamteam.org

Stream Team Voicemail
1-800-781-1989

Facebook
www.facebook.com/mostreamteams

Stream Team E-mails
streamteam@mdc.mo.gov
streamteam@dnr.mo.gov

**Missouri Department of Conservation
Stream Unit**
573/751-4115
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180

**Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Water Protection Program**
573/751-6623
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

Conservation Federation of Missouri
573/634-2322
1-800-575-2322
728 W. Main St.
Jefferson City, MO 65101

*“The rivers are our brothers. They quench our thirst.
They carry our canoes and feed our children.
So you must give to the rivers the kindness
that you would give any brother.”*

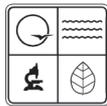
—Chief Seattle of The Suquamish Indian Tribe

The Stream Team Program makes it possible for every Missourian to help protect our streams and rivers.



Missouri Stream Team is a partnership of

- ◆ Missouri Department of Natural Resources ◆
- ◆ Missouri Department of Conservation ◆
- ◆ Conservation Federation of Missouri ◆



and

- ◆ Citizen Volunteers ◆