



Saco River Corridor Commission
communities working together to protect our rivers

A Volunteer Guide to Water Quality Monitoring

Start the Morning Prepared

Although you are ultimately responsible for your own well-being, we have a list of items that we strongly consider bringing with you on each testing morning:

- Insect repellent and/or screening
- Hat with visor
- Rain gear
- Gear for cold weather when appropriate
- Extra change of clothing (including socks)
- Waders
- Sunglasses and/or sunscreen
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Brightly colored clothing (we recommend wearing at least one piece)

The SRCC visits each monitoring site at the beginning of the season in order to confirm safe access still exists. If you encounter something that you feel jeopardizes said access, notify us at once.

Certain sites require more walking to gain access than others. We have made every attempt to assign volunteers to those sites they are best physically suited for. If, for any reason, throughout the season you do not feel comfortable with your assigned site, please call us, and we will do what we can to meet your needs.

In addition to those items you need for your safety, there are a number of things you need in order to gather testing results for the program:

- pH meter with Hach thermometer inside case
- Dissolved oxygen meter
- Turbidimeter
- Cooler packs (if collecting water samples for lab testing)
- Empty water sample containers with labels
- Sharpie permanent marker (to label water sample containers)
- Field data sheets
- Laminated standard operating procedures
- Pen or pencil

If you're prepared for the morning, it's sure to lead to a more pleasant experience.

Meter Care

For each set of three meters (pH, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity), the SRCC made an initial investment of \$2,200. The need to take care of these meters cannot be stressed enough. Please follow these tips to ensure the longest life possible for our equipment:

- DON'T throw or toss meters around either in or out of their cases.
- DON'T leave meters in your car for extended periods of time on hot or cold days.
- DON'T submerge meters in the water.
- DON'T hold meters by the cord.
- DO firmly grasp meters from the underside while handling.
- DO keep meters in an upright position when storing them in their case.
- DO keep cases in an upright position during transit.

Contact Information

If something prevents you from being able to carry out your scheduled monitoring duties for a day, please contact us as soon as you can so we can make other arrangements.

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“Anything else you're interested in is not going to happen if you can't breathe the air and drink the water. Don't sit this one out. Do something.”

— Carl Sagan