

HRWC's Collector Checklist

Please note

- At your first River Roundup or Stonefly Search, you are a "collector in training". You will be paired up with a more experienced collector who will continue to help you and give advice.

First Steps:

- With your leader, make sure you are at the right location.
- With your leader, scout out a nice set up place for the team (flat, near the water, where everyone can be near the collector and leader).
- Collect the water sample. Double-check the label. Rinse the bottle and lid 3 times before keeping the water. Don't get mucky water.
- Quickly grab something for the team to look through (rock, log, net full).

Collection Methods:

- Start on the downstream end and work your way against the current. Site is 300 feet unless noted otherwise on your maps.
- Collect in many different kinds of habitat (your leader should help you with this. See page 2 for additional information).
- Be aggressive in your sampling!
- Use a squirt bottle to spray out the bottom of your net into a white pan.
- Don't collect crayfish and large clams, but tell leader if you saw any.
- Don't overload the trays as this makes picking difficult.
- Squirt a little bit of water into the trays (shoot for wet samples, but not drenched samples).
- With your leader overseeing, try to shoot for about 100 insects, but the most important thing is to find as many types as possible.

- Have your net in the water for 30 minutes (use a runner to cut down on wasted time!)

Tips for Habitat Types

- Riffles-** place net downstream of you and do a shuffle. Slow riffles and fast riffles can have different bugs. Let the water do the work.
- Quiet place/pools-** The water won't do the work, so you have to move the net yourself. You may need to massage the muck away, or use net as a filter.
- Undercut banks/ overhanging vegetation/roots-** Use the net's rim as a scraper. Move net towards the surface of the water, or against the current.
- Submerged or emergent vegetation-** point the net opening upstream and use the rim to scrape, or use your hand to dislodge insects.
- Rocks and boulders-** Pull them out if possible and give to team. If large, do the scraping method on them.
- Logs:** Pull them out if possible and give to team. If large, do the scraping method on them. Look under bark.
- Leaf Packs-** grab piles of leaves and loose vegetation and bring them to the team. A "good" leaf pack is starting to decompose (brown-black coloration).

Finishing up

- Rinse out nets and trays- make sure nothing alive is sticking to them!
- Rinse out again (along with anything else dirty) once you get back to the NEW Center.