

Checklist for a Team Leader

The days before an event:

- After you get your site assignments, look at the Adopt-a-Stream maps online so you have an idea of where you are going.
(<http://www.hrwc.org/our-work/programs/adopt/factsheets/>)

Before your team leaves for the day:

- Check that the directions and map make sense and that they are sending you to where you think you should be going.
- Talk to your teammates and make everyone feel welcome.
- Allow your teammates to look through the bucket and binder.
- Take out the fact sheets from the binders and let your teammates read them.
- Get any additional equipment that you may need (extra jars, forceps, buckets, study sign, etc).
- Ask one of your teammates to be the Equipment Manager (this person makes sure that no equipment is lost while out, so they should be 'detail oriented')
- Make sure you share cell phone numbers for the various cars going out to your sites.
- Make sure every driver has a copy of the directions and that they understand them. **FEEL FREE TO TAKE STUFF OUT OF THE BINDER!**
- Fill out the team sign out slip (in the binder) and give to Paul or Jason before you leave.

At the study site:

- Look at the maps and landmarks to make sure that you are in 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).

- Show your teammates how to pick the insects with the forceps and scoops.
- Fill out the data sheet.
- Refer to the data sheet as you talk to the collector- make sure the collector is getting to all of the habitat types.
- Fill out the jar labels in pencil and place them in the collection jars.
- Try to collect around 100 insects (don't count, don't stress, and don't stress your teammates about it).
- Don't take more than 10-15 of the same type of insect (if you can't tell, then keep it).
- Ask someone else to search a tray after they have been picked once.
- Look for "teachable moments" to tell your team something interesting about the river or something that they could do to aid the health of the river.
- Ask someone to pick the collector's net before leaving.
- Make sure all equipment is rinsed well before leaving.
- Work with your equipment manager in making sure nothing is left behind.

Wrapping up:

- Before the team splits up, give each person an evaluation (some people may need to fill out before leaving the second site, as they may not come back to NEW Center).
- Upon returning to the NEW Center, help the collector rinse off waders, the net, and anything else that may have gotten dirty.
- Leave your waders, net, and anything wet outside (if it is nice), or in the stairwell (especially in January).
- Turn in your bugs, your binder, and your equipment to the second floor.

Reminders on picking trays:

- Be patient and look for small things moving, they won't start right away.
- Add a little bit of water to each tray, but not too much.
- Look in leaf bunches as well as under bark and on the surface of rocks.
- Small wood or grass or sand structures probably contain insects (caddisflies).
- Squirt water on dry surfaces.
- Samples with heavy silt or muck are difficult to pick.
- Never, ever, put down an open jar! Hold it or put on the cap.

Teachable Moments

People want to know what they are doing (what this study is) and they enjoy learning about the place where they are working.

Here are some ideas of things you can tell them:

The Huron River is a state-designated Natural River and is prized for fishing (especially small-mouth bass) and for canoeing.

We are characterizing the *conditions* of sites in the river system.

The number of families of macroinvertebrates (the *variety*) in the stream indicates the conditions of the stream. The more the better. Also, the bugs are important to the fish and the rest of the food chain.

Why measure the streams? The streams affect the health of the river. In fact, the streams *are* the river. (Eighty percent of the water is in the streams.)

Our work today is part of a larger study about the Huron River. We have been monitoring the Huron for many years (since 1992). It is in pretty good shape, with some parts that are exceptionally healthy. It is best where there is the least development upstream. For every 5% of land developed in the watershed, we lose another family of aquatic insects. (A "family" is a taxonomic term, referring to the different kinds of flies, for instance.)

This study is being done entirely by volunteers, with the help of HRWC staff. It has been supported by a number of grants and we are constantly in need of local support to continue.

Human impacts on the river: Our yards and streets get washed to the river. Storm sewers carry water and trash directly to the river; they do not go to any treatment facility.

What people can do, such as: Keep rain at home and don't let it go down the storm drain. Shrink your lawn. Plant native plants. Don't use pesticides or fertilizer.