



## **Your Role in the River RoundUp**

**Team Structure:** Each team includes a Collector, a Streamside Leader (or Scribe), a Manager, and generally 1-3 other team members.

- The **Collector** is the person who has been trained to collect samples with the net from all the different habitats in the creek.
- The **Streamside Leader** has also received training and is responsible for recording data on the data sheet and can tell you about the RoundUp, the importance of this HRWC study, and your role in it.
- If a trained leader was not available for your team, a volunteer **Scribe** will take responsibility for recording data on the data sheet and helping people know what they need to do.
- A volunteer **Manager** is responsible for the equipment.
- The other team members are **Pickers**, who sort through the samples, usually sitting on a plastic sheet on the bank.

### **Roles of People on the Team**

#### **Picker:**

- New volunteers typically start out as Pickers. This job does not require getting into the stream and is a good way to get introduced to monitoring and the interesting creatures that live in the stream.
- No training is required to be a Picker.
- Pickers are responsible for finding macroinvertebrates (bugs) in the samples collected by the Collector, picking out the bugs from the rocks and leaves and putting them in a collection jar.
- **How to be Successful:**
  1. The challenge is to learn to see small creatures hidden in the debris and clinging to rocks and leaves. You need to have patience until they start to move and to recognize what may be living in a clump of pebbles.
  2. Keeping everything in the jar seems easy, but it will tip over if you put it down! Hold it in one hand or screw on the top.

#### **Collector:**

- Collectors complete a four-hour training session in order to learn the techniques for stream and river sampling.
- The Collector is the **only** person that enters the water (unless there is a *Wader* or a *Collector in Training*). They are responsible for sampling the habitats, and bring the samples to the rest of the team to sort through.
- **How to be Successful:**
  1. Do not rely on anyone else to collect.
  2. Listen to the Leader in order to be thorough.
  3. Use your net aggressively.
  4. Be sure someone picks every bug off of the net before leaving the first site.

#### **Collector's Assistant or Wader:**

- On large river sites, it is helpful to have one team member in waders assisting the Collector by carrying the trays to the team and the empties back to the Collector.

- The only training required to be an Assistant is experience wading in moving water on slippery rocks.
- This assignment will be made by Adopt-A-Stream staff.
- **How to be Successful:** Keep your footing on the sometimes slippery, uneven bottom while carrying a tray full of water and material to the people on the bank.

### **Collector in Training:**

- Newly trained Collectors must “apprentice” with an experienced Collector during their first RoundUp.
- Typically, the experienced Collector does the majority of collecting at the first site, while the Collector in Training observes. At the second site, the Collector in Training does most of the collecting, supervised by the experienced Collector.
- **How to be Successful:**
  1. Learn from the experienced Collector with whom you’ve been paired.
  2. Listen to the Leader in order to be thorough.
  3. Use your net aggressively.

### **Streamside Leader:**

- The Leader instructs the team and is responsible for filling out the data sheets, labeling the jars, helping people learn about the study and how to pick and reminding the Collector to cover all available habitats.
- Requires one hour of training, usually offered three weeks before the River RoundUp.
- **How to be Successful:**
  1. Tell people about the study before there is too much to do.
  2. Ensure that the Pickers are doing a thorough job. Show them how a little water can encourage the bugs to move. Encourage them to look long enough find the slow movers and tiny creatures.
  3. Fill in every blank on the data sheet, including the boxes that show the number of samples in each habitat type.

### **Scribe:**

- If a trained Leader was not assigned to your team, one volunteer will be the team Scribe.
- The Scribe is responsible for filling out the data sheets, labeling the jars, and reminding the Collector to cover all available habitats (see the purple data sheet).
- **How to be Successful:**
  1. Ensure that the Pickers are doing a thorough job. Show them how a little water can encourage the bugs to move. Encourage them to look long enough find the slow movers and tiny creatures.
  2. Fill in every blank on the data sheet, including the boxes for habitat types.

### **Manager:**

- The **Manager** is a person who is willing to take responsibility for the equipment and will check the list to be sure everything leaves each site with the team and that it all returns to the NEW Center.
- **How to be Successful:**  
Take the Manager’s Sheet with you and use it to check that all the equipment is taken from each site. You can also use the door code on it to get into the NEW Center.