

HRWC's Leader and Collector Reminders

First Steps of the Leader and Collector:

- Make sure the team is at the right location.
- Scout out a nice set up place for the team.
- Talk to the other team members and make sure they know what they are doing. Pickers? A runner?
- The collector quickly grabs something for the team to look through (rock, log, net full) as well as the water sample.

The Collector's Job:

- The collector starts on the downstream end and works their way against the current. Site is 300 feet unless noted otherwise on your maps.
- The leader will note the time. Collection should last between **35-45** minutes of active working. The leeway here is to account for different experience levels and different walking/wading conditions. The team should keep working on picking up to **1 hour total** as you finish up and begin to clean your net and waders.
- Collect in many different kinds of habitat (your leader should remind you, they are on the datasheet).
- Be aggressive in your sampling!
- Use a squirt bottle to rinse the net and debris into a bucket. (The team will scoop the debris from the bucket into their trays with an aquarium net.)
- Don't collect crayfish, fish, clams, and snails, but tell leader if you saw any. All of these get returned to water.
- The most important thing is to find as many types as possible by looking in as many different microhabitats as possible.

Reminder for Leaders:

- Show the pickers what to do when you get there.
- Keep everything you see within an hour timeframe (except the crayfish, fish, clams, snails mentioned above). Goal- 100 specimens minimum, more is fine. Cut the team off if you are clearly 100+, but keep searching for up to an hour to find anything that looks different.
- Be sure to fill out the data sheet and put the site labels into the alcohol jars.

Reminder that Stonefly Search is a little easier:

- Only collect between 15-25 minutes at each site and only actively look through the trays for up to 30 minutes.
- Collect where you can get into the water—you don't have to follow the precise directions on the map. (The river may be frozen over, or flooded).
- Concentrate your collecting on riffles, big stones, and leaf packs.
- The team only needs to keep stoneflies... about 10 of every different type you find.

Four main collection techniques:

GRAB

- Rocks and logs*- pull them out if possible and give to team. Look under bark and under the rock. If large, do the scraping method on them.
- Leaf Packs and stream debris*- grab piles of leaves and loose vegetation and bring them to the team. A "good" leaf pack is starting to decompose (brown-black coloration). Leaf packs are not readily found in late spring or summer.

SHUFFLE

- Riffles and runs (turbulent and flat moving water)*- place net downstream of you and do a shuffle. Different water speeds can have different bugs. Let the water do the work.

PULL

- Mucky, quiet places/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. Don't go more than 1-2 inches down and don't dump an entire net of muck into a tray.

SCRAPE

- 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.

Finishing up

- If between sites: Use the decontamination kit as shown in tip cards and video.
- Final site: Clean up as best you can; no need to use bleach; wash up the equipment when you get back to the office.