



Your Role in the River RoundUp

Team Structure: You will be placed on a small team to monitor two stream sites. Each team includes a Collector, a Streamside Leader, a Manager, and generally 1-3 other team members.

1. The **Collector** is the person who has been trained to collect samples with the net from all the different habitats in the creek.
2. The **Streamside Leader** is responsible for recording data on the data sheet and can usually tell you about the RoundUp, the HRWC study, and your role in it.
3. The **Manager** is responsible for the equipment.
4. The other team members are "**Pickers**," who sort through the samples, usually sitting on a piece of plastic on the bank.

How to get involved

Everyone must pre-register for the RoundUp in order that the teams can be constructed. Call [(734) 769-5971] or email [jmartin@hrwc.org] the Huron River Watershed Council to register by 5 days before the event. You can request a location that interests you. Monitoring events occur in mid-January, mid-April, and mid-September.

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 sorting through the samples collected by the Collector, picking out the macroinvertebrates 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. Your Leader or Collector will help you learn to have patience until they start to move and to recognize what may be in a clump of pebbles.

[2] Keeping everything in the jar seems easy, but it will turn over if you put it down.

Assistant:

- On a large site 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.
- **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:

- Collectors must attend a four-hour training session in order to learn the techniques for sampling in the river.
- The Collector is the only person that enters the water (unless there is an *Assistant*). They are responsible for sampling all of 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.

Streamside Leader:

- The Leader instructs the team and is responsible for filling out the data sheets, labeling the jars, and reminding the Collector which habitats still need to be found.
- Requires a one-hour training, usually offered three weeks before the monitoring day.

How to be Successful:

- [1] Tell people about the study before there is too much to do.
- [2] Show people 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. Put numbers (not a check) in 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:

- [1] 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.
- [2] Follow the instructions for handling the equipment when you return.