

Scheduling a stream monitoring workshop

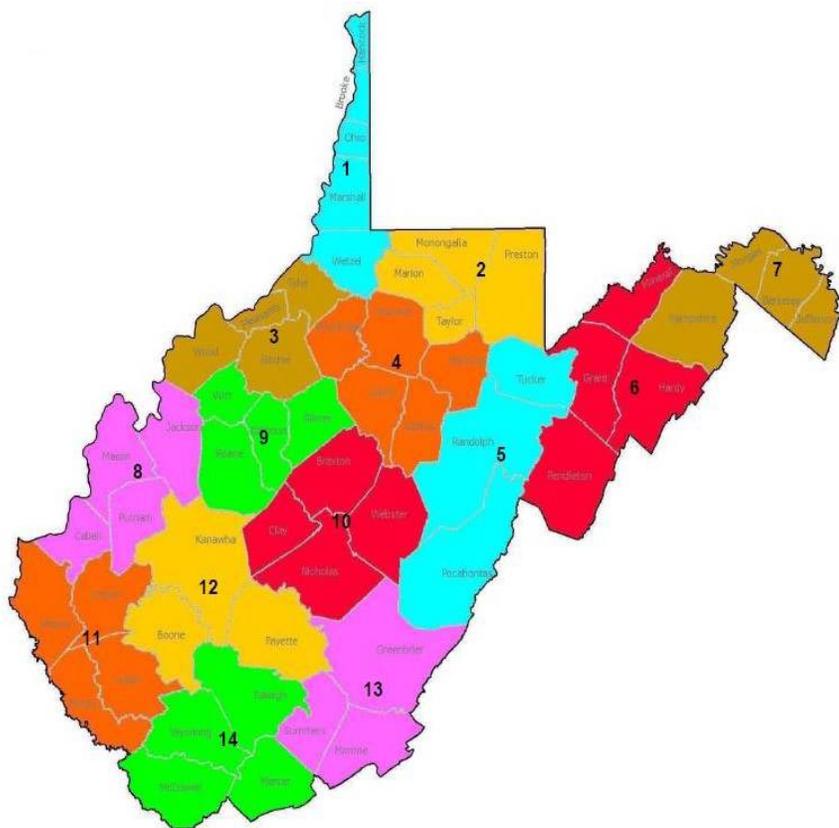
In order to more efficiently cover the entire state the WV Save Our Streams Program Coordinator has divided the state into fourteen districts. The program will attempt to schedule at least one workshop in each district. A workshop will be scheduled based upon request; however, if a district is not covered, the coordinator will attempt to schedule a workshop for that area. The training season will begin in early April and last through early late October or early November of each year. The numbers of workshops per month for this period are as follows:

April	2	July	2	September	2
May	2	August	2	October	2
June	2				

At a minimum, 12 workshops will be scheduled per season.

The schedule is subject to change based upon the coordinators availability due to other job responsibilities, weather and other factors. In some cases the number of workshops per month may be modified.

The workshop schedule does not include short presentations or demonstrations, planning meetings; follow-up visits with existing or new monitoring groups, **re-certification**, advanced workshops, special projects or other workshops that may be schedule at the coordinators discretion.



A workshop schedule is posted on the program's website. This schedule will be updated as necessary when workshops are scheduled or when changes to the schedule occur. If you are interested in attending a workshop in your area, you should sign-up for [program notices](#) or keep track by checking the website on a regular basis. The workshop schedule may also be provided through press releases, Internet list services, newsletters or other print and electronic mediums. The number of participants may be limited based upon available space, number of instructors and other factors. In order to schedule a workshop you must have a **minimum of six** participants; there is no maximum, however there are difficulties teaching large groups (> 15) around a stream environment.

Workshop logistics

Volunteer organizations, agencies, schools and others wishing to host a workshop are responsible for logistical considerations such as a safe and appropriate public access stream site and additional space (room). Examples include a classroom, conference room, or other public meeting place such as a picnic shelter

(weather permitting). This room is necessary so that reviews, introductions and other learning activities can be taught prior to the field portion of the workshop. If the host decides to provide refreshments for the participants, they may charge the appropriate fees for the food and drink and the facilities. However, the hosting organization cannot charge for the stream-monitoring workshop.

Registration is required: The WV Conservation Agency's [Watershed Resource Center](#) has partnered with WV Save Our Streams to create [on-line workshop registration](#). You may also contact either the person(s) hosting the event or the coordinator to register. Please try to register at least **two business days** prior to a workshop. In some cases the number of participants may be limited so the earlier registrants will receive priority in those circumstances. If there is a change due to weather conditions or other reasons the coordinator will contact persons that have registered to let them know about the changes. If you do not register, you will not be contacted. If you prefer not to complete the on-line form please call (304) 926-0499 Ext. 1040; leave a voice-mail message providing your name, affiliation, phone number, Email address and the date of the workshop you are planning to attend.

Resource materials: Resources will be provided based upon registration and may be mailed to participants prior to the workshop if their registration is completed in a timely manner, or the materials may be available on-site. Participants have the option of completing an exam, which upon passing certifies the volunteer pursuant to the §22-11-13 of the WV Code.

(Note: If you are affiliated with a group who wants to begin a monitoring program, not everyone in the group needs to be certified, however a certified volunteer should be present during surveys.) Monitoring equipment is distributed to the certified monitoring groups that agree to a **memorandum of understanding (MOU)** and equipment use agreement. Information about the MOU, a typical workshop schedule and available monitoring equipment is on the program's website.

The program offers various levels of training, but generally everyone begins with a level-one workshop. Under some circumstances, the workshop can be tailored to the sponsoring group's specific needs, but in general they follow the typical workshop schedule described on the next page. Once you have experience monitoring your local stream and are comfortable with the methods and equipment, additional levels of training are available. Additionally, special multiple-day workshops that provide more detail and teach advanced survey protocols can also be scheduled. Other special workshops such as family level macroinvertebrate identification, channel profile assessment, pebble counts, etc. may be scheduled upon request and at the discretion of the coordinator.

Who should attend a stream-monitoring workshop?

Anyone interested in protecting and preserving our streams, rivers and wetlands should attend a workshop. Previous monitoring experience or other knowledge about ecology, biology, chemistry, physics, geology or any of the other sciences is not required. The workshops are appropriate for fifth grade to college educators but can be tailored to younger participants as well. For those interested in a particular aspect of the stream habitat, the program supports and encourages special projects once your group becomes **certified**. These could be projects for college research papers, high school and middle school student projects, Eagle Scout projects, and others. Stream monitoring is also suitable for 4H groups, Girl Scouts and all other organizations that promote environmental awareness and responsibility, and encourage hands-on outdoor learning. In the near future, the program hopes to offer continuing education credit for teachers and students that become certified and adopt-a-stream to monitor over a specified period of time.

Health and safety: Stream monitoring activities have certain inherent risks, which could result in injury. Consider these risks carefully and take the [necessary safety precautions](#) before deciding to participate in any stream-monitoring or outdoor water related activity.

Typical workshop schedule

Workshops are designed to introduce participants to the basics of stream monitoring and provide an understanding and introduction to stream ecology concepts. The program teaches a variety of workshops, which can be tailored to the needs of the participants (i.e. intermediate and advanced monitoring workshops or workshops tailored to specific monitoring goals and objectives). Typically most groups start with a **level-one workshop**, which are most often scheduled on a Saturday so that it is convenient and fits into most people's schedules. A level one workshop can last from five to eight hours. The table below provides an example of a typical level-one workshop schedule.

Level-two and three workshops require a two day commitment. The first day is usually an evening session, which begins around 5:30 PM or earlier, and last for approximately 3 – 4 hours. This session includes numbers 1-3 below. Day two of the workshop is an extended field-day, which begins at 10:00 AM and includes a lunch break. Following the field work, more time is set aside for wrap-up and discussions.

Description	Estimated times	
1. Introductions and sign-in	9:30 – 9:45	15 minutes
2. Review hand-out materials	9:45 – 10:15	30 – 45 minutes
3. Discuss concepts reinforce with hands-on activities	10:15 – 11:45	1 – 1 ½ hours
4. Lunch break	11:45 – 12:30	30 – 45 minutes
5. Field work (not including travel time)	12:30 – 4:00	3 – 3 ½ hours
6. Wrap-up and certification	4:00 – 4:30	30 – 45 minutes

- **What to wear:** Come prepared for outside work with items such as a hat, loose fitting clothes (especially during warmer weather), closed toed shoes such as sneakers, boots or waders (WV Save Our Streams does not provide waders or boots). The outside conditions should determine your overall manner of dress. You should also have plenty of water, sunscreen and insect repellent.
- **What to bring:** Bag lunch and beverages; also, you may need a pencil or pen and a small notebook.

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