
Before You Go...



Connecting with other groups

Consider the advantages of working with groups involved in water quality management, wildlife (especially fish), agriculture or other natural resource issues in your area.

- If these groups are conducting their own monitoring, you may be able to join in their efforts and increase the information for that stream.
- The data collected by these groups provide a means for checking the accuracy of your own data.
- Even if none of these groups monitors your stream they may still be able to provide you with valuable information on the stream or watershed, such as potential threats to the stream. Water Quality Specialists can work with your students to design appropriate ways to monitor these threats.
- The internet is a great place to learn about other monitoring efforts. Groups to contact include:
 - Federal Resource Management Agencies (Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Forest Service)
 - State Resource Management Agencies (Utah Division Water Quality, Utah Dept. of Water Resources)
 - Non-government organizations (Audubon Society, Trout Unlimited)
 - Your local university or Utah State University Cooperative Extension agent.
 - Many of these groups look for opportunities to send speakers out into the community. Ask if a specialist can come talk with your class.
 - A list of Utah groups, with their contact information, can be found in the “Resources” Appendix.

If your sampling site is located on public land (e.g., U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management) notify the appropriate management agency. Agencies can provide you with important information, such as the latest conditions of your site or other interesting sites to monitor. They may also be able to send a ranger or biologist to speak with your group.

If monitoring on private property,

- Always obtain permission from the landowner ahead of time.
- Let the owner know when you will be on their land and what your group will be doing. The owner may be interested in joining your activities.
- After monitoring, follow up with a thank you phone call or note from the class. The landowner may be interested in receiving a copy of the data your class collected.

Developing community support for your program

Community exposure can be an important part of your program.

- It increases awareness of the need to protect our water resources.
- It may help to strengthen administrative support for your program.
- It may assist you in locating and obtaining funding for your monitoring program.

Contact your local newspaper and radio station a week before you head for the field. You may also want to create interest in your program through newsletters, a web site, or by posting announcements at the library or other public meeting places.