

River Watch Training

River Watch is a statewide volunteer water quality-monitoring program operated by the non profit 501©3 Colorado Watershed Network in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Our mission is to work with voluntary stewards to monitor water quality and other indicators of watershed health, and utilize this high quality data to educate citizens and inform decision makers about the condition of Colorado's waters. This program is unique in its statewide focus and frequency of data collection. River Watch volunteers come in all shapes in sizes: Middle, Elementary and High School groups participate in our program to provide in-depth education and experience in real life science that extends beyond the classroom. Conservation groups and community organizations concerned with water quality issues in their areas participate to learn more about watershed health in their region. Interested volunteers must participate in a training before becoming part of our program. After the training, groups agree to sample at a designated station monthly for metals, nutrients and other parameters. As water quality data must be recorded over time to understand the baseline conditions and any changes that occur in the system, we are seeking volunteers that can make a several year commitment to the program.

The fee for new groups to become part of the River Watch program is a one time cost of \$200. With this fee, groups will obtain over \$1200 worth of water quality equipment and includes one person's attendance cost to a training of your choice. **Scholarships are available to those groups who demonstrate their inability to pay the new group fee.**

River Watch will be holding two trainings this fall. We will host one training on the East Slope and one on the West Slope. Students are welcome to attend either training if accompanied by an adult. Continuing education credits will be available from the Colorado School of Mines at an additional cost. Here is the breakdown for the trainings:

- August 5-8 we will be meeting at Pingree Park, a research education center owned by Colorado State University in the Poudre River Valley, located approx 15 miles west of Fort Collins . This overnight event will allow participants the ability to broaden their knowledge on River Watch as we will be having sessions on data management and advanced stream ecology. Introduction to River Watch for new participants will focus on water quality sampling and analysis and the nuts and bolts of our program. Sessions in bringing River Watch home to your organization and exploring non traditional teaching methods to implement River Watch will also be covered. There will be a cost of \$90 per person to attend; all meals and lodging (3 nights) are included in the fee. The deadline to register for this event is July 6.
- October 20-23 we will be meeting at Camp Cedaredge, in the town of Cedaredge on the West Slope. This event will allow participants the ability to broaden their knowledge on River Watch as we will be having sessions on data management and advanced stream ecology. Introduction to River Watch for new participants will focus on water quality sampling and analysis and the nuts and bolts of our program. Sessions in bringing River Watch home to your organization and exploring non traditional teaching methods to implement River Watch will also be covered. There will be a cost of \$90 per person to attend; all meals and lodging (3 nights) are included in the fee. The deadline to register for this event is September 22nd.

If you are interested in attending these trainings or learning more about our program, please contact River Watch Program Coordinator Curtis Hartenstine at curtis.hartenstine@state.co.us or at (303) 291-7412.