

Become a Save Our Streams Monitor



Water quality monitoring is the only way to find out if our streams are healthy and clean enough for both humans and wildlife to use safely. Monitoring data can identify pollution problems, see if pollution regulations are being followed, and gauge whether restoration efforts are successful.

Only 30 percent of rivers and streams in the United States are monitored by government agencies, and even fewer are monitored regularly. Volunteer engagement in stream monitoring is critical to ensure neighborhood waters are safe.

The process to become a certified monitor has 2 fun and easy steps. Once you have completed the two steps below, you will be ready to monitor and collect crucial stream health data in Virginia.

- **Step 1:** Complete the Online Save Our Streams Certification to learn about water quality issues and hone your macroinvertebrate identification skills.
- **Step 2:** Attend a half-day field session to learn the VA SOS data collection protocol.

Step 1: Online Certification

The online certification process includes watching three webinars that will introduce you to water quality issues, macroinvertebrates, and the SOS program. Once you have watched the required webinars, you will complete the registration form listed and receive an email with a link to the macroinvertebrate identification quiz. After passing this quiz you will receive your Macroinvertebrate Identification Certificate. These steps must be taken prior to attending a field training. Once the webinars are completed, you must complete an online certification registration form and pass an online exam to earn your Online VA SOS Certificate.

[Start the Online Certification Process](#)

Step 2: Field Training

Once you complete the online portion, you must attend an in-person field training session.

Date and time: Friday, May 8, 2026 / 9:00am – Noon

Location: Anglers Park, 950 Northside Drive, Danville, VA 24541

Use this link to register by May 1, 2026: [Field Training Registration](#)

About this event: The Izaak Walton League of America is partnering with the Dan River Basin Association and the Virginia Cooperative Extension to provide a workshop for those who wish to become a certified VA SOS Monitor. The workshop is led by Jessica Driver, VA SOS Trainer. Please bring a water bottle and wear water-friendly shoes. You will meet Jessica at the shelter at Anglers Park. For questions about the VA SOS Training, contact Krista Hodges at khodges@danriver.org.