

**Title:** Water Quality Monitor

**Purpose:** Monitor water quality levels throughout the watershed and bacteria levels at highly used areas such as beaches and marinas.

**Description of Duties:** Volunteers will learn to use the YSI-85 Water Monitoring Device and Secchi Disc. This will enable them to test water for many variables such as salinity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, clarity, etc. that will be used for the Annual Scorecard of the watershed. Collection of bacteria samples in the summer months, operation of volunteer-owned and official Riverkeeper boats, driving samples to Anne Arundel Community College, and data entry will also be involved in the position

**Qualifications:** The Riverkeeper is looking for volunteers with good attitudes, the desire to work on the water even in rain, heat and cold, and during the morning and afternoon.

**Time Requirements:**

- As the West/Rhode Riverkeeper Water Monitoring Program is by far the most extensive in the area, there is a long monitoring season. The season for water monitoring begins in May and ends in October. The season for bacteria sampling depends on the funding received, but will occur during the hot months of June, July and August.
- There are two Water Monitoring Teams each week. One team performs samples on the West River and the other performs samples on the Upper West and Rhode Rivers. Each team is on the water once a week on the same day for about two hours (depending on number of volunteers, weather, boating traffic).

**Orientation/Training:** Volunteers will be trained on-site.

**Benefits:** Volunteers will be learning how to use scientific measuring devices, contributing to the region's knowledge of the watershed's water quality, and will be working with other community members to protect their environment. For those who love being out on the water, this position is perfect as you get a chance each week to contribute to watershed knowledge out on our beautiful rivers!

**Reporting Procedures:** Volunteers will report their hours and data sheets to the Volunteer Coordinator after each week of service. Data will be recorded on the Riverkeeper website.

**Location:** Volunteers will meet at the West/Rhode Riverkeeper office at Discovery Village or another pre-determined location for their scheduled Water Monitoring session.

**Agency Contact:**

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