

COLLABORATE WITH US ON CAMP

Citizen scientists (the volunteers), governmental organizations (called sponsors) and the Metropolitan Council each have specific responsibilities in the collaboration, including these key roles:

- ◆ **Sponsors** recruit volunteers and the **Council** trains them to be effective citizen scientists.
- ◆ **Sponsors** pay an annual participation fee. Visit www.metrocouncil.org/camp for current fee information.
- ◆ **Sponsors** ensure that their volunteers participate in training and monitoring.
- ◆ **Volunteers** collect water samples, measure water clarity and temperature, and observe lake conditions.
- ◆ **Volunteers** supply their own boats.
- ◆ **The Council** analyzes the water samples and reviews the monitoring data.
- ◆ **The Council** provides an assessment of current lake conditions to sponsors and volunteers.



HOW TO GET STARTED

Visit www.metrocouncil.org/camp for more details about the program.

Email Brian Johnson at brian.johnson@metc.state.mn.us or call him at 651-602-8743 to learn how to recruit volunteers in your community or if you have questions about the program.



HARNESS THE POWER OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

CITIZEN-ASSISTED MONITORING PROGRAM



WE ALL CARE ABOUT OUR MINNESOTA LAKES

Water is at the heart of Minnesota's culture and economy. Your organization can tap into people's passion for water by recruiting community volunteers to gather data about water quality in local lakes.

The Metropolitan Council's Citizen-Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) partners with cities, watershed districts, water management organizations and others to collect and analyze data from lakes in the seven-county metropolitan area.

BENEFITS TO YOUR ORGANIZATION

The Council and our partners rely on this long-term water quality data to inform and document progress on local and regional water management plans. Enlisting residents to monitor water quality has many benefits:

- ◆ Volunteers are a cost-effective way to obtain scientifically valid data and build long-term water quality data sets. For example, these data can help your organization:
 - Document whether water quality is improving, degrading, or staying the same over time.
 - Assess "before" and "after" lake water quality conditions in response to watershed best management practices and lake management projects.
 - Evaluate if a lake is meeting state eutrophication water quality standards.
- ◆ Good data helps your organization make lake and watershed management decisions with more confidence given limited resources.
- ◆ Volunteers become more aware of lake conditions, leading them to understand and support the lake protection and management activities of your organization.
- ◆ Volunteers may become advocates for your organization's broader efforts by:
 - Effectively communicating with their local government representatives as better-informed residents.
 - Spreading the word of their work and your organization's efforts to their neighbors and social networks.
- ◆ Council-produced lake reports make it easier for your organization to communicate with residents about local water quality.

VOLUNTEERS ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT WATER QUALITY



"Clear, spring-fed water and natural filtration has made Lac Lavon one of the most pristine lakes in the metro area. I wanted to make sure it stayed that way. I volunteered to take the lake samples to track its history so our 110 homeowners could enjoy the benefits of a good clear lake for many years to come. So far, so good!" – *Wally Shaver, Apple Valley*



"We knew that more development was coming to the area around Lake St. Joe, and we felt a sense of responsibility to begin monitoring the lake to help ensure its future water quality. Without clean water, our community and neighborhood will be negatively impacted. We love the lake and hope our efforts will ensure it continues to be a wonderful natural and recreational resource for the neighborhood and for Chanhassen." – *Sue Morgan and Linda Scott, Chanhassen*