

About...



What is World Water Monitoring Day?

World Water Monitoring Day™ is an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local waterbodies.

Background

World Water Monitoring Day is officially celebrated on September 18. It was initially chosen to be a month later (October 18) to recognize the anniversary of the U.S. Clean Water Act, which was enacted by the U.S. Congress in 1972 to restore and protect the country's water resources. In 2009, the program introduced an extended monitoring period from March 22 until December 31 in order to accommodate groups that wish to monitor at other times during the year.

Supporters

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) and the International Water Association (IWA) coordinate WWMD internationally. WEF and IWA receive assistance with planning and promotion of World Water Monitoring Day from many sponsors and partners. Primary sponsors include the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, PerkinElmer, ITT Corporation, and Smithfield Foods.

Goals

The primary goal of World Water Monitoring Day is to educate and engage citizens in the protec-

tion of the world's water resources. Many people are unaware of the impact their behaviors have on water quality. Conducting simple monitoring tests teaches participants about some of the most common indicators of water health and encourages further participation in more formal citizen monitoring efforts.

How Can I Participate?

It's easy and fun to participate in World Water Monitoring Day. Just visit the Web site to register your site and purchase a test kit. You can observe WWMD on any date of your choosing between March 22 and December 31. Reporting data to the program's database allows you to share your experiences with others in your community and keep a yearly record of your monitoring test results. Data is accepted until December 31. In addition to monitoring your local waterway, consider organizing a trash clean up, going on a walk through your watershed, or talking to a school group or scout troop about water pollution.

How is the Data Collected Used?

Water quality scientists use data from more sophisticated monitoring programs to make decisions on the health and management of water resources. The monitoring tests performed by WWMD participants are designed to bring communities together to learn about the importance of monitoring their local water resources and what they can do to help protect them. Results are published each year in the Year in Review report and made available on the WWMD website.

Coordinated by:



International
Water Association

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