

Participating in AWQA Day as a Group

There are endless ways to explore your waterways as a group. Here are some ideas to get you going!

You may also find the grade 8 and 9 teacher and student resources to be useful; they can be found at www.awqa.ca.

Collecting and testing the water

The three suggestions below are catered to groups that ordered a group AWQA Day test kit

Option 1: Multiple testing sites at one location

4 stations (one for each parameter)

- Divide larger group into 4 smaller groups
- Groups rotate through the stations, performing a different test at each location.

Option 2: Multiple testing sites at one location

No stations to rotate through

- Divide larger group into 4 smaller groups
- Each group has their own test kit
- The smaller groups work together to complete all of the AWQA Day water quality

Option 3: Multiple testing sites at different locations

No stations to rotate through

- Distribute test kits amongst various group members
- Each group/group member tests the water at different waterbodies or sites
- Each group/group member tests all four AWQA Day water quality parameters
- Testing can take place on the same day, or on different days throughout the month of June.

The time required to test each water quality characteristic will vary



Working in groups:

Try to get everyone involved in the testing procedures

- One person can read out the testing procedure
- One or two people can do the hands on testing
- Try switching roles so that everyone can participate in the testing



Remember to test the surface waterbody of your choice between June 1st and June 30th

Don't forget about safety!

- Test in a safe and appropriate location
- Wear rubber gloves and safety glasses when testing the pH and DO levels
- Bring a sealable container to put your pH and DO waste in

**Waste can be flushed down the sink with excess water*

Recording and posting your results

Record your Site Location

- On the interactive map at www.awqa.ca
- On the map provided on the online field data sheet at www.awqa.ca
 - On your own map
- Record the legal land location of your site

OR

- Record the geographic coordinates of your site

Options 1 and 2: Testing the water as a group

In these scenarios you will all be at the same location.

- Have the team leader record the location of your sample site.
- Each group records their water quality results in their AWQA Day Field Guide and Data Sheets booklet.
- Post your results at www.awqa.ca by July 15th

Additional field data sheets can be found at www.awqa.ca



Option 3: Group is testing the water separately
In this scenario groups will likely be testing water at different locations

- Have each group record the location of their sample site
- Post your results at www.awqa.ca by July 15th

Posting your Results

1. One person posts the results for the entire group

Recommended

2. Several group members post results
***It is important to make sure that all of the sites you test are entered and that they are only entered once.**

To do this each group member inputting data will need an AWQA Day login and password

Email info@awqa.ca to create additional AWQA Day accounts.

Discussing your AWQA Day Results

A few ideas...

- Discuss your findings between the various groups
- Compare your findings to the *Interpreting your results* section in the AWQA Day Booklet
- Discuss the various land uses in the area and how they might affect water quality
- Have group members state one thing they learned
- Have group members say how they can improve the water quality in their area
- Discuss other water quality characteristics might you want to test

Extended activities: *Role playing*

- Have a town hall meeting to discuss a proposal to build a new mall in your watershed
- Have the groups work as land managers to create a mock land management plan for the area

These are only a few ways that you can test the water using your AWQA Day test kits. If your group has a great idea, please share it with us at info@awqa.ca