

Volunteer Responsibilities - Level 1



The BC Lake Stewardship and Monitoring Program relies on volunteers like you to collect water quality samples and take field notes to observe and monitor changes in your lake. **Thank you!**

The primary responsibilities of volunteers are:

1. Collect and record the sampling information and record field observations on your lake.
2. Properly maintain and store sampling equipment.
3. Send results to our BCLSS office for further analysis by our program staff.
4. Follow the instructions and safety guidelines provided by the BCLSS.

Field Observations

Each volunteer will have a predetermined deep station site, from which to collect samples. BCLSS staff and the Ministry of Environment biologists will help determine this site. The following field observations will be recorded from your boat:

- ✓ Secchi Disc Reading
- ✓ Surface Water Temperature
- ✓ Weather Conditions
- ✓ Wave conditions



Each volunteer should take at **least** 12 evenly spaced samples from **April to September**. The samples should be taken between 10 am and 2 pm and on the same day of the week, if possible. All field observations should be recorded on the field form at the time of sampling.

Other Information

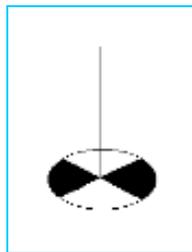
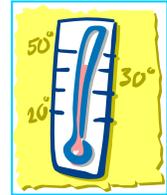
We would also like each volunteer to keep track of the time it takes to be a lake volunteer, including travel time, to calculate the total number of volunteer hours for this project.

This information is very useful to determine the in-kind donation portion of the project and can be useful to BCLSS when applying for new funding.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

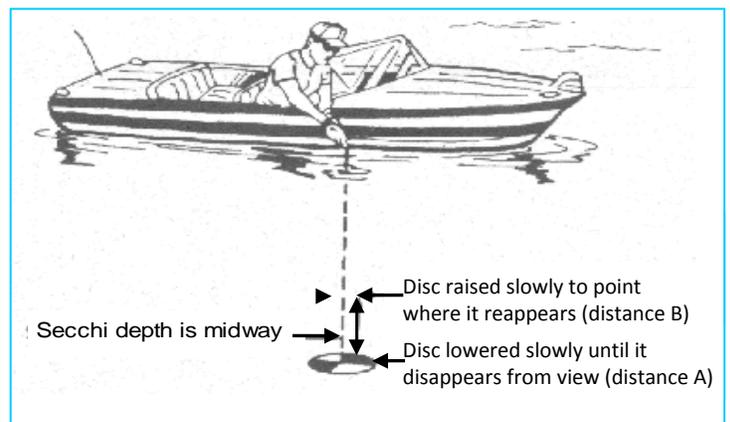
Water Temperature

1. The water temperature reading is a measurement of **surface** water at your lakes predetermined deep station site.
2. Place the thermometer over the side of the boat 0.5 meter below the surface of the water (string attached to the thermometer)
3. Wait at least one minute before reading your temperature results
4. Record the temperature result to the nearest 0.1 °C.



Secchi Disc Reading

1. Lower the Secchi disc over the shaded side of the boat.
2. Lower the disc until the black and white pattern is no longer visible. Note the measurement on the tape measure (in meters) between the Secchi disc and the surface of the water (estimate to the nearest centimeter – i.e. 7.2m). Record this as Distance A.
3. Pull the disc up until the black and white pattern appears again and record this distance as Distance B.
4. Average the two measurements and record them once a week for 12 weeks throughout the summer.



Example:

$$\frac{(\text{Distance A} + \text{Distance B})}{2} = \text{Secchi Depth}$$

5. Fill in the remainder of the information on the sheet and send it to the BCLSS office once the sampling season is complete. Don't forget we require a minimum of 12 weekly Secchi and surface water temperature readings have been recorded.

Important points to remember:

1. Please do not go out if it is raining heavily (i.e. making it difficult to see the Secchi disc accurately), if there is abnormally high boat traffic, or if your safety would be at risk. A clear, calm day would be best.
2. Always measure on the shady side of the boat.
3. Do not wear your sunglasses while conducting the measurement
4. The information form has space for one site on the same water body. If you need more, please photocopy the form.
5. Please fill out the entire information sheet. If you need any assistance, please phone our office: **1-877-BCLAKES**

Please Note: In some lakes, the disc may reach the bottom of the lake and the black and white pattern is still visible. In this case, if possible, move to a deeper section of the lake or record the depth (in meters or centimetres) and indicate that the lake is “unlimited.” It is still important to take the measurement, even if it is on the bottom.



Clean water – our most valuable resource.