

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. to collect and record the sampling information and record field observations on your lake;
2. to properly maintain and store sampling equipment;
3. to send results to our BCLSS office for analysis by our program staff;
4. to 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:

- Clarity (Secchi disc reading)
- Surface water temperature
- Weather conditions
- Wave conditions

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.

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 in-kind hours for this project.

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 data form has space for one site on the same water body. If you need more, please use a separate copy of the data form.
5. Please fill out the entire data form. If you need any assistance, please phone our office: **1-877-BCLAKES**

Step-by-Step Instructions:

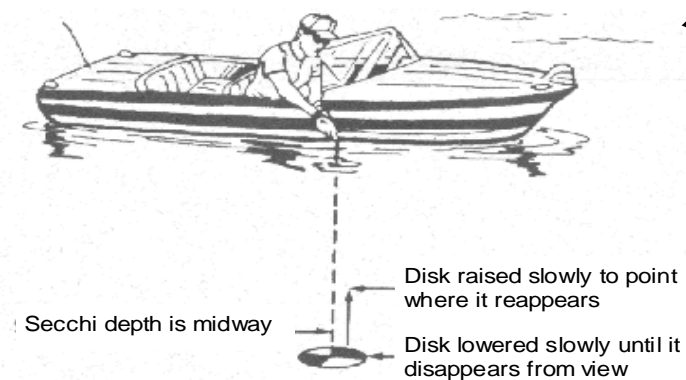
Water Temperature

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 metres below the surface of the water (a line can be attached to the thermometer to facilitate this).
3. Wait at least one minute before reading and recording your temperature results.
4. Record the temperature result to the nearest 0.1 °C.

Secchi Disc Reading

(See how to take a Secchi depth at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiRT2j54Y2U>)

1. Lower the Secchi disc over the shaded side of the boat.
2. **Slowly** lower the disc until the black and white pattern is no longer visible. Note the measurement on the tape measure (in metres) between the Secchi disc and the surface of the water (estimate to the nearest centimetre – i.e. 7.2m). Record this as Distance A.
3. Pull the disc up until the black and white pattern **just** appears again and record this distance as Distance B.
4. Average the two measurements $[(\text{Distance A} + \text{Distance B})/2] = \text{Secchi depth}$.



5. Fill in the remainder of the information on the form and send it to the BCLSS office once the sampling season is complete. **Don't forget we require a minimum of 12 evenly spaced weekly Secchi and surface water temperature readings for the season!**