



Join the Volunteer Monitoring Program!



Monitoring Effort Opportunities:

Creek Water Quality Monitoring– Use test kits and meters to monitor water quality parameters in local creeks that empty into the estuary. Following training with program staff, teams of two volunteers independently monitor one or two creek sites. (2-3 hrs/month)

Dawn Patrol– Monitor oxygen, temperature and salinity levels in the estuary in the early morning hours via kayak. (2-3hrs/month)

Phytoplankton– Collect marine phytoplankton and conduct identification and counts using a microscope. (2 hrs/month)

Agriculture Area Water Quality Monitoring– Conduct creek water quality monitoring in areas near agriculture operations. Assist program staff in hiking to sites and collecting field data. (no set time commitment)

Stream Habitat Assessment– Hike up local streams to collect stream bottom invertebrates and assess fish and riparian habitat features. Learn water quality and stream surveying techniques. Attend training with staff. (4 hrs/site)

Bacteria Monitoring– Collect water samples in the field and conduct tests for bacteria in the lab. Staff conduct training in collection and processing using sterile technique. (2-3 hrs/month)



Interested in one of the opportunities above?

Complete the New Volunteer Interest Form online

1. Program staff will contact you to discuss where help is needed.
2. For training, you'll head out in the field with an Estuary Program staff member or an experienced volunteer to learn about the monitoring procedures and sites.
3. If you decide that you are interested in continuing, you make a commitment to the program for the minimum time period, which differs for each monitoring effort.
4. Once training is complete, you will begin your volunteer work.

Please note: Unfortunately, due to safety concerns, the program does not work with volunteers under the age of 18.

Questions? Contact Ann Kitajima, Monitoring Program Manager 805.772.3834 ext. 14 or at annk@mbnep.org