Hello SC Adopt-a-Stream Volunteer,

**Congratulations** and welcome to the SC Adopt-a-Stream (SC AAS) Program! You are officially a Certified SC AAS Volunteer, having completed all requirements for this one-year certification for Macroinvertebrate Stream Monitoring. Remember, you are a SC AAS certified volunteer monitor until \_5/20/24\_, at which time you will need to attend a recertification training or take the online course to become recertified. (Check the [SC AAS website](https://www.clemson.edu/public/watershed/scaas/get-trained/events.html) for online and in-person training dates.)

Now, to get you started!

**• Register in the SC AAS Database:**

Your contact information is now in the SC AAS Database, *but you will need to take just a few simple steps to complete registration*. The registration link should have already been sent to you from “SCAdoptAStream …”  (be sure to check your spam folder). **If you did not receive this email, contact the State Team at** **scaas@dhec.sc.gov****.** After registering yourself, please register your Group or add yourself to an existing Group. You can always add people as you go along, but you must register your Group **before**registering your monitoring **site**. You can find detailed answers to frequently asked database questions on our [Database FAQ page](https://www.clemson.edu/public/watershed/scaas/data/database-faq.html). As always if you need additional help contact your trainer or the State Team.

**• Identify and register your sampling site(s):**

If you are seeking advice on selecting a monitoring site, page 34 of the Volunteer Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Handbook provides information about site selection. Use of SC DHEC’s [Watershed Atlas](Watershed%20Atlas) or the new simplified [Adopt-a-Stream Atlas](https://sc-dhec.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=566f26411a714539995da197263ef46a) can be helpful for choosing a site. [This video](https://youtu.be/dr9wTHo2Dn0) also shows step-by-step instructions for selecting a site. Contact me if you would like help selecting a site, connecting with other volunteers, or finding your watershed’s HUC number.

**• Access a monitoring kit:**

To find a monitoring kit to use, check the [SC AAS Kit Map](https://www.clemson.edu/public/watershed/scaas/resources/kit-map.html) on our website for kits that can be borrowed!

• **Keep up to date with SC AAS News:**

You can subscribe to our SC AAS newsletter [HERE](https://clemson.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=fc3c2103cbe9471ff10d53227&id=a6aaccb5b2)to continue to hear program updates, highlights, and event announcements. You are a part of this collective movement to identify waterways in need of better management and protection.

• **Practice Macroinvertebrate ID:**

Don't forget to explore [www.macroinvertebrates.org](http://www.macroinvertebrates.org/) for practice quizzes and detailed photos. Please feel free to reach out to me for more resources and helpful tips, or to send me photos of any macros that you need help identifying.

 **Stream Habitat Assessment (if needed):**

We weren't able to go over the Stream Habitat Assessment that is found in the back of your handbook with your other data sheets. This assessment can be done once a year per site. It’s fairly simple to complete and should be done by the same person(s) in your group each year, as several of the questions have very subjective answers. Check out our new [Habitat Assessment video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HDB4IJQlb0&list=PLug9I_BFLAiabAzhQIgCmBD5LQHOggeLj&index=18&t=6s) that walks you through this protocol.

• **Learn more:**

Check the [Resources & Materials page](https://www.clemson.edu/public/watershed/scaas/resources/materials.html) on the SC AAS website for training presentations, handbooks, videos, and many more useful tools!

Your SC AAS Training Team is here to assist you in your monitoring efforts! Do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions, want to purchase a kit, or would like for us to join you on your first sampling event. We encourage all volunteers to sample in a group, learn from each other, and even accompany us as we sample, to continue your learning process. You will find that the more often you get out and sample, the more it becomes second nature!

Congratulations again and thank you for being invested in the protection of our water resources! We welcome your feedback on the training workshop. Please complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JPDQCH9> and help us continue to strengthen this program across South Carolina!

Help spread the word about SC AAS by talking to your friends/family/coworkers and follow and share your photos with us on social media! [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/scadoptastream/), Instagram (@scadoptastream and @clemson\_watershed\_center).