



Call for Volunteer Community Scientists: Help Monitor Water Quality in the Toms River

Project Background

Rally for Barnegat Bay (RBB) is a collaborative initiative by Clean Ocean Action (COA), Save Barnegat Bay (SBB), and MATES technical school to address persistent pathogen and nutrient pollution in the Toms River watershed. Volunteer Community Scientists are needed to assist with water quality monitoring in 6 towns: Beachwood, Island Heights, Ocean Gate, Pine Beach, South Toms River, and Toms River. Volunteer Community Scientists will be trained to collect water samples to monitor bacteria levels in the Toms River watershed during wet weather, as well as under ambient conditions. **All necessary supplies will be provided.** Results from laboratory analysis of the samples collected by volunteers will help to inform source track down efforts, and will help to confirm elimination of sources. [Visit our website for more information about the project.](#)

This project is supported through a contract funded by a Water Quality Restoration and Federal 319(h) grant awarded by the New Jersey Department of Protection.

Community Scientist Requirements

- **Flexible schedule:** Ambient monitoring will take place on predetermined dates, while wet weather monitoring will be dependent on storm events. COA will coordinate and schedule sampling. Each sampling event will take approximately 2-3 hours.
 - Wet weather monitoring: sampling will take place on two consecutive days (during and after a rain event). Community Scientists will be notified 24-48hr before storm events if monitoring will occur.
 - Ambient monitoring: monthly sampling on predetermined dates.
 - Sampling will only be conducted during daylight hours, and will be cancelled if storm conditions are unsafe (e.g. thunder and lightning).
- **Reliable transportation:** Volunteers must be able to meet at SBB's EcoCenter in Toms River and must be comfortable driving in rainy conditions. If willing, volunteers may also be asked to drive to sampling locations throughout the watershed.
- **Volunteers must:**
 - **Be over 18 years of age**
 - Be willing to conduct sampling in adverse field conditions (e.g. rain, wind, cold temperatures).
 - Be organized and able to follow specific protocols
 - Complete the sampling training session
- Sampling will require lifting a bucket of water, bending, and reaching. Volunteers should be able to navigate slopes and trafficked roadways (safety vests will be provided), including in wet weather conditions.
- **Volunteers are required to participate in training sessions (see below)**

Ready to Volunteer?

- Email Catie Mitchell at programs@CleanOceanAction.org to get involved.
- A virtual information session for interested community science volunteers will be hosted on **Wednesday, February 23 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.**
- Small group, in-person, outdoor training sessions will be held in March (dates TBA) at SBB EcoCenter in Toms River.