

Perusing the Parameters ~ Teaching Youth How to Test For and Interpret Water Quality Data

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Who?

Anyone interesting in learning about water quality...elementary, middle, and high school students, 4-Hers, scout groups, environmental clubs, teachers, Extension agents, volunteers, etc...

What, Why, and How?

Perusing the Parameters, developed by Extension personnel at the University of Kentucky, is a hands-on activity that teaches youth (and adults) how to test for and interpret water quality data. The activity instructs students to research various water quality parameters and learn how to test for the parameters using basic water testing equipment. Students are asked to give presentations on the parameters, explaining what each parameter measures, why it is important, and how to test for it. After presenting, students are taken to various local water bodies to test the water quality. Once testing is complete, students interpret the water data and assess the quality of each water body.

Where and When?

Being located near a water body, such as a stream, on a warm, sunny day would be ideal. But, as many educators know, realistically this may not always be an option. This activity can be done indoors or out, during any time of the year. If a water body is not present or weather conditions do not allow for outdoor exploration instructors can bring in water samples for participants to test.

To download and print a copy of the activity visit www.ca.uky.edu/enri/Perusing.pdf.
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