

Training and testing opportunities that fulfill the requirements for
 Qualified Data Collector (QDC) status under Ohio's Volunteer Monitoring Program (VMP)*
 Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water April 7, 2006

In general day 1 and day 2 are required or highly recommended for all applicants. Additional requirements depend upon the Level and Speciality being sought. To register and for additional information go to http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/credibledata/training_testing.html.

Dates Offered	Setting Module #	Content Description	Time Allotted	Testing Requirement	Knowledge and abilities needed or helpful
Day 1 - Basic Principles					
6/26/06	Classroom 1	Introduction to Credible Data	1 hr	No	None
7/05/06	Classroom 2	Introduction to Biocriteria - Classroom Overview Fundamentals of Aquatic Ecology: Lessons From Streams, Important Concepts, and Elements of Adequate Watershed Monitoring and Assessment	3 hrs	No	Educational background or experience in natural sciences
9/06/06					
10/17/06	Classroom 3	Biological Assessments, Biocriteria, and Water Quality Standards, Determining Attainment Status, Evaluating Program Effectiveness: Integration of Multiple Indicators in Support of Watershed Assessments	4hrs	No	Educational background or experience in natural sciences
Day 2 - Stream Habitat Assessment (QHEI)					
6/27/06	Classroom 4	QHEI Classroom - Rationale, Methods and Application; Introduction to QHEI Principal Metric Overviews: Substrate; Instream Cover; Channel Morphology; Riparian Zone and Bank Erosion; Pool/Glide and Riffle/Run Quality Using the QHEI	3 hrs		Educational background or experience in natural sciences
7/06/06					
9/07/06					
10/18/06	Field 5	Instructor assisted field scoring, 2 sites	3 hrs		Ability to conduct field work; light lifting and stream wading
	Field 6T	Blacklick Creek test site will be scored by all applicants and submitted for grading by Ohio EPA	2 hrs	Yes, for both Level 2 and Level 3	Ability to conduct field work; light lifting and stream wading
separate day	Field 11T	Three test sites will be scored outside of this training at predetermined locations convenient to the applicants; upon acceptance of results by the Ohio EPA, these will serve to meet Level 3 QDC requirements for QHEI/habitat assessment		Yes, for Level 3	Ability to conduct field work; light lifting and stream wading

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Day 3 - Biological Monitoring					
6/28/06	Field 7	Fish field work at headwater, wading, and boat sites. Instruction on sampling site logistics, electrofishing techniques, and fish sorting and processing procedures	8 hrs	No	Educational background or experience in natural sciences & fisheries; Ability to conduct field work, swim; familiar with boat and electrofishing safety operations
	OR				
	Field 8	Level 2 and Level 3 macroinvertebrate field instruction on sampling protocols required to collected samples; Level 2 designed for consistency with the Macroinvertebrate Aggregated Index for Streams (MAIS) procedures	4 hrs	Level 2, no	Educational background or experience in natural sciences & aquatic insects; Ability to conduct field work; light lifting and stream wading
	Classroom / Lab 9 Macroinvertebrate Lab Analysis - Levels 2 & 3 Macroinvertebrate lab work instruction on sample processing, sorting, sub-sampling and identification based on L2 or L3 protocols			Level 3, yes see 12T	
				Classroom / Lab 10T	Macroinvertebrate Testing - Level 2 Applicants issued a check sample of 20 common macroinvertebrate taxa to identify to the family level (unless otherwise specified)
	AND CHOOSE 10T OR 12T				
	Classroom / Lab 12T Macroinvertebrate Lab Analysis - Level 3 Artificial substrate sample processing procedures will be reviewed; each L3 applicant will perform the initial substrate sample cleaning of their test site sample (sample identification is to be conducted on Day 5, module 16T)			2 hrs	Yes
OR					

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Day 4 - Biological Monitoring (continued)					
6/29/06	Classroom 13	Applied Use of Biological Data in Ohio Data Management Indices Calculation; Hand calculate indices in class Case Examples; Calculate and interpret results	4 hrs	No	Educational background or experience in natural sciences
	Classroom 14	Determining Aquatic Life Use Designations Limited Resource Water Determination Case Study; DELT Anomalies Open Discussion	4 hrs	No	Educational background or experience in natural sciences
Day 5 - Biological Monitoring (continued)					
6/30/06	Classroom / Lab 15T	Fish Identification Test - Level 3 Information will be provided on additional data submittals required to obtain Level 3 QDC status	4 hrs	Yes	Educational background or experience in natural sciences & fish taxonomy
	OR				
	Classroom / Lab 16T	Macroinvertebrate Identification Test - Level 3 Applicants will be issued a check sample of 25 common macroinvertebrate taxa to identify to a specified level of taxonomy (mostly genus or species); Information will be provided on additional data submittals required to obtain Level 3 QDC status .	4 hrs	Yes	Educational background or experience in natural sciences & aquatic insect taxonomy

* Also known by the term Credible Data. All required training and testing is pursuant to Chapter 3745-4 of the Ohio Administrative Code.