



Education & Outreach Program

Water Watch

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation's Water Watch program is an opportunity for students to become scientists in their own backyard. Designed to teach students in grades 6-12 about the science of water quality and watershed management, the Water Watch program provides the perfect opportunity for students to take an active part in learning about the quality of our surrounding water bodies. Students will be exposed to actual data collection, as well as charting, graphing, forming hypotheses, and testing to reach conclusions.



LPBF Education staff will conduct an introductory presentation, explaining the testing processes to students. With the testing materials provided by LPBF with funding from Shell, students conduct tests on water from area canals, streams, or rivers. Designed to be a semester- or year-long program, students will present their water testing results to LPBF Education staff and an audience of their choice at its conclusion.

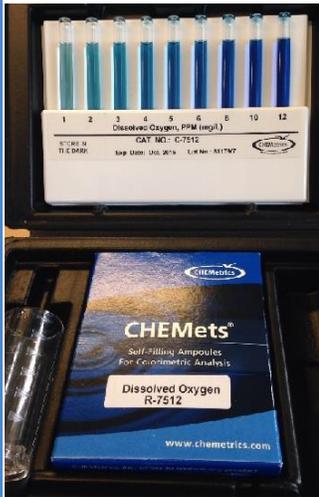
Students will test for:

- Temperature – taken with a thermometer
- Turbidity – tested with a transparency tube
- Dissolved Oxygen – tested with a CHEmets dissolved oxygen kit
- pH – tested with pH paper
- Fecal Coliform Bacteria – tested by growing bacteria in Coliscan



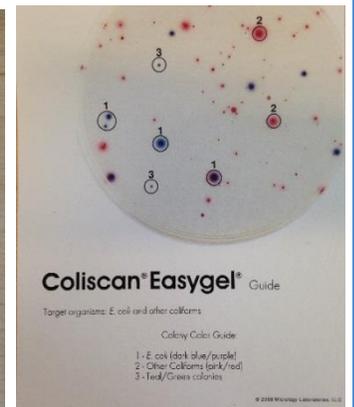
Thank you to Shell for generously funding our Water Watch program!





All aquatic animals need oxygen to live. A shortage of dissolved oxygen in the water is a sign of pollution and harmful to fish. Students will use either a LaMotte dissolved oxygen kit or a CHEMets kit to find the concentration of oxygen in the water.

Some bacteria naturally live in the water and are important to the ecosystem. Other bacteria, like fecal coliform bacteria, are harmful. Students will use the Coliscan method to test for bacteria in their water sample.



Temperature of the water is important because many fish, invertebrates, plants, and plankton base their life cycles on it. Temperature affects feeding behavior, growth, and reproduction of all aquatic organisms. Temperature also affects how much oxygen the water will hold.

Turbidity is a measure of water clarity. The more turbid the water is, the cloudier it is, which means the passage of light is decreased. High turbidity also causes the water to hold more heat. Students will use a transparency tube to measure the turbidity of the water sample.



pH is the measure of the amount of hydrogen ions in the water. It tells us how acidic or alkaline the water is. Students will use pH test strips to determine the pH level of the water sample.