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 Freshwater Stream Monitoring. Remember, you are a SC AAS certified volunteer monitor until \_\_DATE\_, at which time you will need to attend a recertification training or take the online course to become recertified (info will be emailed to you about the online course as your recertification date approaches).

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-L@lists.clemson.edu  (be sure to check your spam folder). **If you did not receive this email, contact the State Team at** [**scaas@dhec.sc.gov**](mailto:scaas@dhec.sc.gov)**.** After registering yourself, the first step is to register your Group or add yourself to an existing Group. You can always add Group members as you go along, but you must register your Group **before**adding and adopting your monitoring **site**. Chapter 7 of the Freshwater Handbook provides instructions for getting started in the Database, and you can find detailed answers to frequently asked questions on our [Database FAQ page](https://www.clemson.edu/public/watershed/scaas/data/database-faq.html).

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

For advice on selecting a monitoring site, consult Chapters 2, 3, and 7 of your Freshwater Handbook. Chapter 7 includes an introduction to SC DHEC’s [SC Adopt-a-Stream Atlas](https://sc-dhec.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=566f26411a714539995da197263ef46a), and you may also find it helpful to explore the [SC Watershed Atlas](Watershed%20Atlas). [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.

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

The Stream Habitat Assessment (Chapter 4 of your handbook) should be done at least 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 [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:**

Visit the [Resources & Materials page](https://www.clemson.edu/public/watershed/scaas/resources/materials.html) on the SC AAS website to print copies of data sheets, find digital versions of handbooks, watch helpful videos, and check out 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 about monitoring, finding or purchasing a kit, or understanding your data. 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).