



Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Harbor Watch! A list of the opportunities currently available can be found below. Please contact Pete Fraboni (p.fraboni@earthplace.org) for additional information.

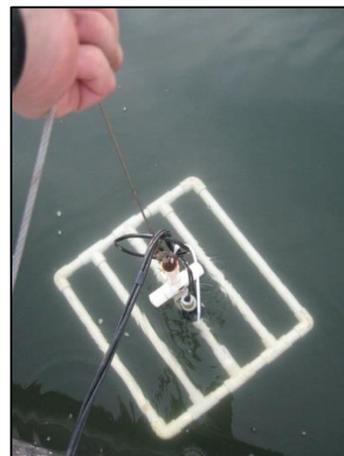
Adult Volunteer Opportunities with the Harbor Watch Program:

Opportunity	Location	Time Commitment	Skills Needed	Commitment Required	Date Range
Profiling Dissolved Oxygen Levels	Norwalk, Saugatuck, Five Mile River Harbors	Each location takes 2.5 - 3 hour	Training provided on field equipment such as DO and SCT meters	Weekly	May - September
Field Testing for Water Quality	Throughout Fairfield County	2 - 3 hours depending on the travel time	Training provided on field equipment such as DO and SCT meters	Biweekly	May - September
Preparation for laboratory work	Harbor Watch water quality laboratory at Earthplace	1 hour	Training provided on labelling of sampling containers and petri dishes	None	Ongoing
Glassware washing	Harbor Watch water quality laboratory at Earthplace	1 - 2 hours	Training provided to wash glassware and preparing it for sterilization	None	Ongoing
Tabling at Community Events	(i.e.) Oyster Festival; Earth Day Program at Earthplace	1 - 2 hours	Outgoing personality and knowledge of the Harbor Watch mission	None	Ongoing
Coastal and River Clean-ups	Local rivers, streams, and coastal spots	1 - 3 hours	None; willingness to work outdoors	None	Ongoing

DESCRIPTION OF OPPORTUNITIES

(1) Profiling dissolved oxygen levels in harbors and estuaries:

Adult volunteers will accompany Harbor Watch staff on our boat to conduct dissolved oxygen surveys at established monitoring sites in the Norwalk, Saugatuck, and Five Mile River Harbors. Adults will be trained to calibrate and use field meters to measure dissolved oxygen and salinity, and how to use a Secchi disk for determining light penetration into the water column. Volunteers will also learn the proper way to log data, take wind speeds and air temperatures. While on the water volunteers will be required to wear personal flotation devices (life preservers), even though they might be skilled swimmers. Profiling cruises usually take between 2 to 3 hours to complete depending on the estuary being studied. Volunteers should take precautions to avoid getting sunburn. Wearing protective clothing, hats and using sunscreen is highly recommended.



(2) Field testing in watersheds:

Adult volunteers will accompany Harbor Watch staff to established stream and river sites. Volunteers will be trained to properly operate dissolved oxygen and conductivity meters, how to collect a water sample, and how to log field data. Volunteers will need to be able to walk to streamside monitoring sites and to help carry equipment (no heavy weight). Volunteers should take precautions to avoid getting sunburn. Wearing protective clothing, hats and using sunscreen are highly recommended. Volunteers should also take prudent measures to prevent getting Lyme disease. Volunteers should plan for a time commitment of 2 to 3 hours depending on the location of the watershed monitoring sites.



(3) Preparation for laboratory work:

Those who choose to help in this area would be trained to prepare sampling bottles prior to field collection. Harbor Watch staff will train individuals to label containers and properly pack a cooler for sample transport. Volunteers would be trained to label petri dishes with correct sample IDs and volume amounts (with staff input). Once trained, volunteers should allow an hour for completing this task. This is a low-impact opportunity and will be conducted indoors.

(4) Glassware washing:

The Harbor Watch laboratory work generates a large amount of dirty glassware. Often the glassware needs to be turned around quickly, meaning washing, rinsing and autoclaving (sterilization), so it can be used again. May, June, July, August, and September are our high energy monitoring months, and glassware processing needs are at the highest point during this time. Volunteers will be trained how to use laboratory glassware detergent for cleaning glassware. Volunteers can spend one to two hours helping with this task depending on their availability.

(5) Tabling at community events:

Harbor Watch often participates at community events, such as the annual Norwalk Oyster Festival, the Annual SoundSurfer Waterman’s Challenge (Bridgeport), The River Ramble (Rowayton), the New Canaan Annual Sidewalk Celebration, and others. Adults who would like to volunteer for this opportunity would be trained to be ambassadors for the Harbor Watch Program. Often Harbor Watch staff will bring props and program-related information to these tabling events to share with the visiting public.



Individuals who enjoy speaking to the public would find this volunteer opportunity rewarding and fun. The time commitment is flexible, which can be between one and two hours.

(6) Coastal and river clean-ups:

Harbor Watch has taken part in several environmental clean-up efforts over the years. Recently Harbor Watch has partnered with the Norwalk River Watershed Association and the Norwalk Land Trust for the annual coastal clean-up day in late September. Volunteers who don’t mind working together in teams to remove litter and trash from a site along the Norwalk estuary, would be doing a valuable service to improve the esthetics of this valuable resource. Because this event is part of a nation-wide coastal clean-up effort, litter will be weighted and data will be collected on the types of trash that has been removed. Volunteers need to wear old clothing and protect themselves from sunburn. Wearing insect repellent and sunscreen are recommended. Work gloves are also recommended, but disposable gloves will be provided. Refreshments are also provided to those that participate. Hours of commitment are flexible from one hour to four hours depending on the stamina and availability of the participant.

