



Virginia Save Our Streams

Organization at a Glance

Virginia Save Our Streams trains and provides oversight to volunteer water quality monitors in biological water quality assessments. We train citizens to identify fresh water aquatic macroinvertebrates (critters). Based on the diversity and abundance of critters found in the streambed, we are able to define whether the stream has acceptable or unacceptable ecological conditions.

VA SOS History

The Virginia Save Our Streams Program has been the priority project of the Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League of America since 1996. The Virginia Division is made up of 26 chapters across the state and approximately 7,000 individual members. In 1996, the Virginia Division was asked to pick up VA SOS after the National Izaak Walton League of America discontinued the program. Since then not only has the program grown, but we have improved our biological monitoring protocol to be comparable to the state's biological monitoring program.

VA SOS Mission

The central mission of VA SOS is to create stewards of Virginia's water resources. We accomplish our mission by 1) educating interested citizens about water quality, stream biology and benthic ecology and 2) making useful observations of stream sections not currently assessed by state agencies.

Virginia Save Our Streams trains individuals to monitor their streams by collecting and identifying the critters (macroinvertebrates) that live on the bottom of a stream (benthic area). During the course of the VA SOS training sessions, we provide a basis for understanding water quality and how to monitor water quality. Those people who would like to become VA SOS certified monitors must attend a certification session to test their knowledge of bug identification and the VA SOS collection method. In order to accomplish our mission, we facilitate and support collaborative partnerships among all interests in a watershed.

VA SOS Stats

400 Certified Volunteer Water Quality Monitors
200 Monitoring Sites on Streams and Rivers throughout Virginia
15 Regional Trainers
Monitoring sites in 10 out of 13 Major Watersheds in Virginia
8,000 Hours Contributed by VA SOS Water Quality Monitors

Virginia Save Our Streams

P.O. Box 8297 ● Richmond, VA 23226 ● www.vasos.org ● 804-615-5036

Help Virginia Save Our Streams!

Virginia Save Our Streams is fortunate to have over 400 volunteer water quality monitors who monitor hundreds of sites throughout Virginia. Volunteer monitors donate thousands of hours of their time annually to help protect Virginia's resources.

Despite these vast volunteer resources, Virginia Save Our Streams relies on a small staff to provide training oversight and quality assurance to make sure the data collected by our volunteer monitors is the best it could be.

Please help us in our quest to protect these natural resources!

Here are some of the ways you can help...

1. Donate to Virginia Save Our Streams

\$1,000 will pay for a training session

\$500.00 will Train a volunteer to become a regional trainer

\$100.00 will pay for the quality assurance costs for a site

\$100.00 will pay for the quality assurance needed for a volunteer monitor.

\$50.00 will purchase equipment for a volunteer monitor

Any Amount Helps!

Contributions made to VA SOS are tax-deductible!

For information on how to make a donation, contact Stacey Brown at (804) 615-5036 or stacey@vasos.org.

2. If you belong to a watershed group that conducts water quality monitoring, please include costs of Virginia Save Our Streams training, certification, and quality assurance in your next grant or annual budget. ***For more information on these costs, please contact Stacey Brown at (804) 615-5036 or stacey@vasos.org.***

3. If your place of work has a corporate giving program, please consider Virginia Save Our Streams as a recipient! For information on how to include VA SOS in corporate giving programs ***contact Stacey Brown at (804) 615-5036 or stacey@vasos.org.***

4. Join the Virginia Save Our Streams Chapter of the Izaak Walton League – www.vasos.org

5. Shop at www.iGive.com/VASOS

Your Two Cents Makes a Difference!

Did you know that more money is printed daily for the game Monopoly than by the U.S. treasury? If only some of that money could make a difference for Virginia Save Our Streams. But guess what? You can make that happen just by buying your games, toys, books, CDs and everyday items at iGive.com. At the Mall at www.iGive.com/VASOS, you get a free membership (no costs or obligations) to shop at 400+ stores and without even knowing it, you'll be helping Virginia Save Our Streams at the same time. Up to 26% of every purchase you make will be donated directly to Virginia Save Our Streams!

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