

Oakton and YSI meters and training procedures

Hot Training Tips PASEC

1. **How to encourage new team members.** Many of us think that simply watching a stream visit is an adequate way to introduce new members to our activities. However another way of thinking about this is to consider that “making a contribution” is a primary goal for all of our new members. To encourage this thinking those of us with a lot of experience may need to think of ourselves as a coach rather than a demonstrator. The recommendation: have new team members actually participate in as many tasks as feasible on their first few stream visits.
2. **Change batteries every 6 months.** The Oakton meters that many of us have been using for some time now run on the power supplied by a pair of batteries. Dan Delotto has a good supply of batteries and recommends that they be changed two times each year. For starters, put a piece of paper in your Oakton kit that has the date of the last battery change. Get enough batteries to cover at least a whole year of use. This will mean that at each battery change a new set must be placed into the kit. Someone on each team must contact Dan to find a convenient time to get a supply of batteries.
3. **Hanna and YSI Meters.** The Hanna meters are history! In July 2016 all teams will either switch to the YSI meters or will continue using them. In either case, if you have not yet used these meters yourself then the following video may help you get started.
<http://www.ccpasec.org/index.php/use-of-ysi-do-meter>

The elevation of the site in 100's of feet must be entered into the YSI meter during calibration. The web site below will get you to the location on a map where you collect samples. First you must go to a very fine detail map of your site then click the button on the top labeled “spot elevation” to turn on the feature. Now simply click the map where you collect samples and a window will appear having the elevation. Write the elevation of the sampling site on a small piece of paper and tape it to the manual rounding the number to 100's of feet. The note must identify your site since two teams use each meter.

<http://nationalmap.gov/viewer.html>

4. **Read and apply new tips.** As always, keep your eyes open for the next Hot Training Topic that you think may help other PASEC members. If you have an idea or two, please send them to me. If you have solved a potential problem with your own procedure, then forward your procedure to me so that we can promulgate it to all members.