



## #MonitorWater Quality with the Surfrider Student Club Network and the EarthEcho Water Challenge

EarthEcho International and the Surfrider Foundation share a joint commitment to protecting our planet's water resources and are excited to partner to offer the Surfrider Student Club network the opportunity to take action through the EarthEcho Water Challenge. The EarthEcho Water Challenge is one of the world's largest citizen science programs. To date, the program has activated more than 1.6 million young people and community members in 146 countries to connect with and protect their local waterways. Participants monitor water quality in their communities, share their findings through a global online database, and use the data collected to develop projects to protect water resources. The EarthEcho Water Challenge is managed by EarthEcho International, a global nonprofit founded on the belief that youth have the power to change our planet. It was established by explorer and advocate Philippe Cousteau, Jr, in honor of his father, Philippe Cousteau Sr., and grandfather, legendary explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau. EarthEcho leverages adventure, storytelling, and STEM education to empower and inspire young people worldwide.



The Surfrider Foundation is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves and beaches, for all people, through a powerful activist network. Improving coastal water quality has been one of the Surfrider Foundation's top priorities over the last 30 years. Surfrider's Clean Water Initiative strives to protect water resources and prevent pollution from reaching the ocean. Surfrider Foundation's national network of Blue Water Task Force Labs samples water quality at popular recreation locations. This community-based science program protects public health at the beach and brings together communities to implement solutions where pollution exists.

Because a large investment is needed to start a Blue Water Task Force lab that many student clubs do not have access to, this collaboration between the EarthEcho Water Challenge and the Surfrider Foundation empowers Surfrider's student club members by providing an opportunity to sample water quality without a formal laboratory set up. As a Surfrider Student Club, you are invited to join fellow club members across the country in participating in the EarthEcho Water Challenge! To participate, you'll use the resources in this guide to make a plan and execute your Club's water monitoring program, following all required safety procedures.



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### TO GET STARTED

1. Read over the following pages highlighting the steps to engage your Club in the EarthEcho Water Challenge and example event ideas.
2. Complete this form by October 31, 2020 to indicate your Club's interest in leading a water monitoring program with the EarthEcho Water Challenge by and to receive an EarthEcho Water Challenge test kit as part of the initial launch of this collaboration: <https://forms.gle/DXxpiKWubyMyso45A>. Participating clubs will be asked to take part in a short, introductory training webinar.
3. Join your fellow Surfrider Club Network members in monitoring water quality across the country – collecting data at least once a month during the 2020-2021 school year, sharing your results, and taking action to protect your local waterways.

### OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE YOUR CLUB IN THE EARTHECHO WATER CHALLENGE

The EarthEcho Water Challenge can be incorporated into ongoing activities of Surfrider Student Clubs through a variety of ways. In light of challenges faced with in person gatherings due to COVID-19, Clubs can consider the following potential strategies when making plans to incorporate a water monitoring program into their activities:

- Individual club members can serve as a representative for the group, collecting water quality data and updating the full club virtually on the results. Club members may also be able to “check out” kits or share resources in order for a different club member to collect data every month.
- Members can host virtual water monitoring sessions (via an Instagram live, pre-recorded video, or webinar), to share the experience of water monitoring in the field with a wider audience of club members.
- Following your local health and safety guidelines, members can consider socially distanced testing in small groups.



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### Water Monitoring in Action with Emma Kavanaugh and the St. Thomas Aquinas High School Surfrider Club:

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*Working with EarthEcho International as a Water Challenge Ambassador has been an amazing opportunity for me and my Surfrider youth club. Through this program, I have been able to educate over 50 students in my community about water quality and the many threats to global rivers, lakes, and oceans. Together, we tested water at a local beach and collected 200 pounds of trash in 30 minutes.*

*Monitoring water quality is an exciting way to engage a team in environmental conservation efforts that benefit communities by making them aware of issues affecting local waterways. Additionally, the guidance I have received from both EarthEcho and the Surfrider Foundation has helped me effectively engage my club in hands-on environmental efforts. These activities make education more exciting and fun for all involved.*



Join in this global effort to monitor and protect your local waterways! [Click here to complete your club's interest form](#) by October 31, 2020. Questions? Contact Sean Russell at [srussell@earthecho.org](mailto:srussell@earthecho.org).



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