Volunteer Monitoring Program Evaluation Compiled Survey Questions

This document contains example questions for administering surveys to volunteers of surface water monitoring programs. The questions in this document were compiled from surveys that were distributed by various watershed monitoring groups to program volunteers at the end of their field season. The survey questions are intended to evaluate program effectiveness and provide insight to how programs can be improved for future field seasons.

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# Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Questions

1. How did you hear about (*insert program name here*)?
2. How many years have you volunteered with (*insert program name here*)?
3. What first inspired you to participate with (*insert program name here*)?
4. What motivated you to become a volunteer?
5. If this is not your first year, what made you return as a participant?
6. How was your experience as a volunteer?
7. Would you return next season? If not, what could we do to make the program better for you to return?
8. What made your volunteering a positive experience?
9. What suggestions do you have to make your volunteering a better experience?
10. Do you have any suggestions to improve volunteer engagement and retention?
11. Did you recruit anyone to join you on any of the sampling events? If so, did they enjoy the experience?
12. Do you have any suggestions that may improve the program in the future?
13. Are a student, currently employed, or retired?

# Training and Program Logistics

1. Did you attend the training?
2. Could the training have been improved in any way?
3. What made the training a positive experience for you?
4. Do you have any suggestions to make the training a better experience?
5. Our training was a full day event, with several methods taught by the trainers. Was this approach effective?
6. Do you feel confident in your ability to perform water quality monitoring techniques and follow the protocols of the program as a result of this training?
7. At the training, several methods were taught by fellow volunteers. Was this approach effective?
8. Did you find the location of the training to be appropriate/effective for learning the skills needed to be a volunteer?
9. During sampling days, were you confident performing all the monitoring tasks?
10. Were there any monitoring tasks you feel you needed more training on? (ex: YSI; turbidity; flow; collecting samples; pebble count; chlorophyll; photos; photo points)
11. Did your knowledge about the watershed and water quality increase as a result of the training?
12. Are there any changes that would have made it easier for you to meet on your scheduled sampling dates?
13. We are considering running Stream Teams only on weekdays next year. Would you potentially be able to volunteer on a weekday? (example to assess changes in future programming?)
14. We plan to produce an annual report in electronic format. Are you satisfied with receiving a report in this format?

# Learning and Behavior Change

1. Please rate your previous watershed related knowledge (1=Novice 5=Expert)
2. Did your knowledge about watersheds and environmentally-conscious practices increase as a result of this experience? (1=No Increase 5=Significant Increase)
3. I feel I made a meaningful contribution in my community. (1=Strongly Disagree 5=Strongly Agree)