

Clean Water Is Up to You series

Being a Master Watershed Steward: Do YOU have what it takes?

Brodhead Watershed Association

Perhaps you've always loved being outdoors, especially with other people. Perhaps you are a curious kind of person, who enjoys learning — and sharing what you know. Perhaps you're happiest outside, breathing in the woody, watery smells along one of our countless crystal creeks.

If so, maybe you have what it takes to become a Master Watershed Steward.

Do you believe it's important to protect our natural heritage of clean, abundant water? Do you wish you could make a difference in the world? Most important, do you have the heart of a volunteer?

Then you should find out more about the Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward program.

As a Master Watershed Steward, you will become a part of a special group of like-minded people who study Penn State's research-based information — and volunteer their time to share that knowledge and expertise in action, in the wider community.

Master Watershed Stewards put their knowledge and personal talents to work in dozens of ways. They help with stream restoration, teach classes about stream ecology or wildlife habitat, or write articles for local publications. They organize cleanups, speak to neighborhood groups, or work with municipal officials or school children. They test water quality or design and host educational displays.

Training for the 2023 program begins on March 8, 2023, continuing every Wednesday evening until early June. Training consists of a mix of remote and in-person classes, plus several Saturday field trips.

You'll study a broad range of water resource topics, covering groundwater, stream ecology, wetlands, invasive plants, water recreation, stormwater management and much more. Successful completion takes

about forty hours of formal classroom training, plus fifty hours of volunteer service after training.

Up to 20 people are selected for the program each year — deadline to apply for the 2023 program Friday, February 10, 2023.

Sounds exciting? Take the next step, and find out more! Email James Vogt, Master Watershed Steward Coordinator for Monroe County, at jav45@psu.edu or visit <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/watershed-stewards/counties/monroe>

