



## PREPARATION AND SAFETY

### Teacher Responsibilities:

- Visit streamside location in advance of TEAM program. Do the following:
  - Check stream for the presence of obvious hazards, such as broken glass, metal debris, medical wastes, steep banks and tree roots near the water, poison ivy, etc. Easy access is important.
  - Make sure there is an open area adjacent to the stream for class discussion and macroinvertebrate identification.
  - If the stream is on private land, secure landowner's permission to sample stream.
  - Provide at least two tarps for students to sit upon when identifying.



- The day of the field visit with TEAM DNR volunteer educators. Teachers will:
  - Ensure that students are dressed for the field. Students that will be wading into the stream should wear rain boots, or old sneakers with pants rolled up. Crocks or open-toed sandals are not allowed.
  - **Warning!** Under no circumstances will students be allowed to enter the stream barefoot.
  - Students may want to wear some kind of rubber gloves for picking up rocks in the stream. Gloves are not necessary for handling stream macroinvertebrates.
  - Note the water level in the stream that morning. If it is a rainy day, small streams may flood or have increased flow. In this situation, it is better to delay the field day rather than risk a student falling.
  - Avoid encounters with snakes. If you come upon a snake, move away from the snake. If you allow the snake to move out of the area it usually will.

- Check your students for Ticks after the program. Ticks are likely to be found in grassy or wooded areas. Ticks are known carriers of Lyme disease.
- Students are not allowed to enter streams with a water depth above their knees.
- Wash hands when done. TEAM has hand sanitizer, but teachers should also bring this.

Adapted from Hands On Save Our Streams, 1995.  
Save Our Streams Teachers Manual  
Izaak Walton League of America