
2.4 Basic Equipment

Much of the equipment a volunteer will need is easily obtained from either hardware stores or scientific supply houses. Other equipment can be found around the house. In either case, the volunteer program should clearly specify the equipment its volunteers will need and where it should be obtained.

Listed below is some basic equipment appropriate for any volunteer field activity. Much of this equipment is optional but will enhance the volunteers' safety and effectiveness.

- Boots or waders; life jackets if you are sampling by boat
- Walking stick of known length for balance, probing, and measuring
- Bright-colored snag- and thorn-resistant clothes; long sleeves and pants are best
- Rubber gloves to guard against contamination
- Insect repellent/sunscreen
- Small first aid kit, flashlight, and extra batteries
- Whistle to summon help in emergencies
- Refreshments and drinking water
- Clipboard, preferably with plastic cover
- Several pencils
- Tape measure
- Thermometer
- Field data sheet
- Information sheet with safety instructions, site location information, and numbers to call in emergencies
- Camera and film, to document particular conditions

Specific equipment lists for the chemical and biological monitoring procedures included in the manual are provided in the relevant chapters.

