

Hello everyone!

Welcome to our virtual Aquatics March workshop. This month we will be focusing on water testing and drinking water, and I am offering a possible hands-on activity for interested students!

WaterInsights is an online crowdsourcing water quality testing platform, where they send citizen scientists and students water testing strips to monitor a variety of water types. The goal is to create a large database of water quality data in order to create better drinking water for all. This award winning program was founded by a young student, Sahithi Pingali, who was trying to better understand how the foaming Lake by where she lived in Bangalore India was polluted. She created the program in order to help the public have access to information, materials and data needed to tackle their water quality issues and problems.

To learn more about the 16-year-old student who started WaterInsights, Sahithi Pingali, [click here](#). You can also visit the website and check out some of the nationwide data by [clicking here](#).

I did some water testing of my own in the Lake Waramaug Watershed using these strips. I also tried an additional water-testing strip that focused on chloride levels, and got some really interesting (and concerning) data. To learn more about my results, stormwater sampling and the importance of citizen science, [click here](#).

If your team is interested in having some water testing strips sent to you, please gather how many you would be interested in, and have your advisor fill this google form linked [here](#), or your team can email me at kelseys@nwcd.org. As of now, I can provide a few per student if you are interested in trying out multiple water sources. Or if you want just try your tap water, that is completely fine as well! If there is a specific water source that your team is interested in monitoring, feel free to email me about it.

Lastly, as I mentioned in my video above, [here is a link to StoryMap](#) about the effects of road salt and the growing network to combat this problem. If you would like to learn more about the chloride testing strips I used, which is part of the Winter Salt Watch program run by the Izaak Walton League of America, [click here](#).

I will have the aquatics station webpage updated in the next few days. I have submitted my updates to our webmaster, and she will get them up ASAP. Because we are a good portion into the year, I did not want to take out any resources. I organized them by objective, and added some extra ones.

Next month, we have a live webinar planned that involves several mapping activities. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Have a good one and be well,
~Kelsey