SOS CLUB MODEL

SAVE OUR STREAMS CLUB
BY THE TIA ALLIANCE

What does a Save Our Streams Club do?
It might take some time to get your club going, but the goal is to develop a local mission connected to protecting or improving an adopted stream or watershed that your club regularly monitors for pollution issues.

1 GETTING YOUR FEET WET

Choose a local accessible stream to adopt

Choose one or two low-cost projects in the flyer packet to start small, and sustain those projects for the whole school year

Work with your club to determine an appropriate mission for a stream in your community

2 SOS CLUB UP AND RUNNING

Get trained in benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring

Connect with fisheries and aquatic ecology professionals for guidance in your mission

Regularly monitor, at least twice a year, and upload data to the Clean Water Hub

3 ASPIRATIONAL

Build a sustained partnership with scientists and community members

Conduct research and analysis on your streams and expand to other streams

Present findings at regional or national conferences, like an AFS or TU regional meeting

TROUT UNLIMITED

SOS CLUB PROGRAMS FOLLOW THE 4 A'S TO ADDRESS AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM IN THEIR COMMUNITY AND DEVELOP A MISSION. THE 4 A'S ARE:

Adoption- find a local or regional stream or watershed to focus on
Awareness – identify the problem
Action – find a solution (pre-assessment & field work)
Analysis – evaluate impact of solution and share findings

AN SOS CLUB DEVELOPS AND GROWS THEIR MISSION...

In 2013, a few students at James Madison High School in Vienna, VA formed to gain hands-on science experience in the field and to locate suitable streams for the release of Trout in the Classroom (TIC) fish with the guidance of their science teacher. The club has since grown into a team of 20+ students and has developed and grown their mission. The group conducts watershed assessments in rural Virginia, collects and analyzes the data, and sends it to state and federal natural resource agencies. Their purpose is to determine the suitability of streams for brook trout which are intolerant to pollution and an indicator of healthy ecosystems.

POTENTIAL MISSIONS

- Assisting elementary Trout In the Classroom programs
- Water temperature surveys for long term studies
- Boat/wader decontamination station maintenance—public awareness signage
- Blogs, podcasts and other media outreach
- e-DNA monitoring
- Constructing and mounting bluebird, purple martin, and wood duck nesting structures
- ArcGIS Story Map production about your adopted stream
- Livestock exclusion fencing and management
- Constructing, installing and maintaining public information kiosks in parks/public lands
- Invasive species management
- Riparian habitat enhancement
- Creel survey and fish population data analysis
- Public awareness campaigns
- Erosion control projects
- Road salt runoff monitoring, research and analysis