

ROSEWOOD COMMUNITY SCIENTIST

PRECIPITATION OBSERVER

The Rosewood Community Scientist Program aims to provide educational opportunities to the residents of the Truckee Meadows and foster connections to nature, collect data to inform wetland restoration management decisions, and contribute to national climate research efforts.

Goals

Scientific Understanding

- Collect precipitation data that will be entered into the CoCoRaHS network and contribute to National Precipitation Datasets
- Monitor precipitation over multiple seasons to track seasonal and annual variation in precipitation

Education

- Provide educational opportunities for individuals of all ages and backgrounds allowing community members to conduct citizen science and learn about hydrology data collection

Engagement

- Contribute to an organization that amalgamates volunteer precipitation measurements and creates large scale precipitation maps from the collection of individual points. These precipitation maps are used by Federal and State Climate Scientists, as well as private entities

Volunteer Position Description

Volunteers will conduct weekly precipitation measurements at five precipitating gauges along the one mile loop of the Truckee Meadows Nature Study Area. The precipitation data will be uploaded to the Community Collaborative Rain Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHAS).

Volunteers will start collections at 9AM each Saturday. Observations will take roughly 1 hour to complete. Additionally, the day after the snow events precipitation measurements will be collected on the recent snowfall. Volunteers are expected to participate in data collection at least once a week.

Precipitation collection frequency will be increased to daily measurements as more volunteers are trained. Each volunteer would only need to come in once a week.

Experience is not required; an orientation and training will be provided.

We are looking for volunteers who:

- Are self-driven, detail oriented, independent workers
- Are passionate about the Truckee Meadows Watershed
- Have an interest and/or background in Hydrology
- Are looking to learn more about data collection
- Are comfortable walking over a mile on uneven surfaces, standing for an extended period of time, and bending or crouching

We are looking for volunteers who: possess or have the passion to improve the following skills:

- Precipitation data collection
- Knowledge of the Truckee River Watershed
- Citizen Science and Community Collaboration
- Be part of the broader effort to study climate change

For more information or to get started, contact Caroline Stillitano (Community Engagement Coordinator) at caroline@tmparksfoundation.org

What is Hydrology?

Hydrology is a branch of science concerned with the properties of earth's water, specifically its movement in relation to land.

Hydrology and Precipitation

Data collection in the form of snow depth measurements, stream flow monitoring, and precipitating measurement facilitate a greater understanding of current hydrological conditions, and trends over time.

The organization CoCoRaHS describes themselves as “a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and background working together to measure and map precipitation.” The organization relies on a multitude of citizen scientists to produce continuously updating nationwide precipitation maps.



Benefits of volunteering as Precipitation Observer:

- Spend time outside
- Collaborate with other community members with similar interests/passions
- Gain experience with field work and precipitation gauge measurement
- Contribute to datasets used by climate scientists, city planners, engineers, etc