

2025 SC ADOPT-A-STREAM ANNUAL REPORT



ABOUT SC AAS

2025 marked South Carolina Adopt-a-Stream's (SC AAS) eighth year as a statewide volunteer water quality monitoring program. Participants attend free workshops and learn to collect baseline, non-regulatory data on local waterways. The program offers certification in four different protocols: **freshwater stream**, **tidal saltwater**, **lake**, and **macroinvertebrate monitoring**.

Certified volunteers submit data into a publicly viewable database. Volunteer data can be used for screening, decision making, STEM education, grants, MS4 permit compliance, and watershed management plans. This helps communities protect and improve waterways.

SUCCESS STORIES

In 2025, SC AAS continued to expand across the state with the reallocation of a program coordinator position to the Upstate. The program's mission, vision, and goals were established and are available to view at www.scadoptastream.org. A brand-new edition of the tidal saltwater monitoring handbook was created along with updated data collection forms. A year-round, on-demand, online recertification process was launched.

Team members represented the program at the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition, the Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic, the Environmental Education Association of South Carolina (EEASC) Annual Conference, the SC Environmental Assistance Conference, and other events at universities, nature centers, parks, and festivals across the state. SC AAS was also featured in publications such as SC Wildlife Magazine and the Friends of Lake Keowee Society Magazine.

A partnership was established with EEASC to create **Friends of SC AAS**, a donor platform supporting kits, chemical refills, workshops, and other program essentials for volunteers. SC AAS also nurtured relationships with Clemson Extension, SC State Parks, SC Master Naturalists, SC Green Step Schools, the SC Association of Agricultural Educators, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, SCDES regional offices, and many other organizations.



2025 SUMMARY

Sampling Events	1,833
Sites Sampled	291
Volunteer Hours	3,185
Volunteer Miles	15,287
Active Volunteers	340
Alerts Generated	169

46

Workshops

861

Certifications

31

Volunteer Trainers

2017 - 2025 SUMMARY

Sampling Events	9,800
Sites Sampled	757
# Certifications	4,611
Volunteer Hours	20,453
# Water Quality Alerts	521
Volunteer Contributions	\$600,522

WHAT'S NEXT?

- New edition of freshwater stream monitoring handbook
- Updated volunteer, trainer, and partner resources



SC DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
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www.scadoptastream.org

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SC Adopt-a-Stream