



Stormwater Quality Leadership™ Program

The Stormwater Quality Leadership Program follows the path that pollutants take from our neighborhoods through the storm drain system to waterways downstream. Students collect and test runoff samples, analyze results and design and implement mitigation strategies for their school site. Led by a trained classroom teacher, students in 5th-12th grade develop real-world technical skills and discover future career opportunities as water quality leaders.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- **Discovery:** An introduction to the environmental impacts of stormwater runoff pollution and career-based skill development in the water quality industry
- **Field investigation:** Students conduct visual observations, collect runoff samples, and analyze data from in-class labs and certified lab results.
- **Solution design and implementation:** Students work together to design solutions for reducing runoff pollution including structural solutions and peer messaging campaigns.
- **Final report and public outreach:** The young leaders prepare and present publicly their final recommendations in a Water Quality Improvement Plan for the school site.

FEATURES

- Comprehensive educational materials customized for the local watershed, school site, teacher and experience level of the students
- Digital files customized for watershed, local pollutants of concern, and storm drain system
- Continued one-on-one teacher consultation with certified water quality expert
- All necessary equipment for stormwater runoff sample collection, water quality testing, storm drain maintenance, classroom labs and PPE
- Final Water Quality Improvement Plan development materials

BENEFITS

- Hands-on project-based learning that easily integrates into curriculum and aligns with NGSS
- Develops critical data analysis and engineering design skills
- Career Technical Education exposes students to professional opportunities in water management
- Builds confidence in public speaking and passion for environmental advocacy
- Connects students with community through public outreach
- Qualified internship for resumes and college scholarship applications

“Not only were the students able to get their hands dirty, but they were trained on what stormwater professionals do. They can wear their experience like a badge of honor!”

- Javier Ayala, CTE Coordinator, Santa Ana Unified School District

“I think you can all see how fundamental it is to all of our collective success that we continue to bring in bright young minds.”

*- E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair California State Water Resource Control Board
in shared panel presentation at CASQA Annual Meeting in August, 2021*

EDUCATION PARTNERS



PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

