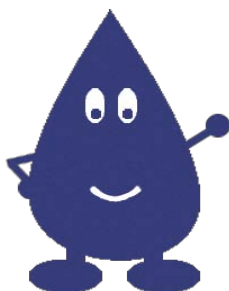# Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow (School) Network

Registering with CoCoRaHS.org and Entering Data – Lesson 2

Subjects: Basic Computer Skills

Length of Activity: 2-5 minutes per day! ☺

Objective: log on and enter your daily precipitation

Overview: Through the oversight of a teacher, students will log in to CoCoRaHS.org and enter their daily data.

Preparation:

- Teachers should complete a basic training course in observing and reporting precipitation. This short training can be completed online at http://www.cocorahs.org or with a CoCoRaHS mentor/instructor.

- Teachers should complete the initial registration ahead of time. This should take no more than 10-15 minutes.

- Students should be able to read and write measurements to hundredths of an inch, tenths of an inch, and in whole numbers (see Lesson 1).

- It is recommended that after the initial registration, a bookmark is created to go straight to the log-in page.

Materials and Supplies for this activity:

- Official CoCoRaHS rain gauge
- Computer with internet access

Initial Registration:

- Go to http://www.cocorahs.org/ and click on the "Join CoCoRaHS" button in the upper right hand corner of the page.
- Complete the registration using your school name in the following format:
    First Name: Independence
    Last Name: Elementary School
    Phone: School phone number
    E-Mail: use your school e-mail address
    **Note: if you do not know your latitude/longitude coordinates, leave this field blank. Your coordinates will be determined using the address provided.

- Complete the remaining portion of the registration and select "Submit Application" at the bottom of the page.

- You will receive an e-mail containing your username and password.
    ***Note: your username will default to 'FirstnameLastname' (with no spaces).
    i.e. IndependenceElementarySchool***

- Go to the following page to log-in: http://www.cocorahs.org/Login.aspx

    o Using the computer you will use at school, we recommend you create a bookmark for this page.

    o Enter your username and password provided in the e-mail and select the box 'Save Login'. Now your information will be saved on this page!

Entering Data:

***Note: the default data entry page is the 'Daily Precipitation Report' page (Figure 1 below). If you need to enter data for an accumulation of precipitation over multiple days, i.e. weekends or holidays, please use the 'Multi-Day Accumulation Report' (Figure 2, see below for more details).

- After Logging in, if it does not default to the data entry page, select 'My Data' at the top of the page.

  - **<u>TIME OF OBSERVATION</u>**

    We have selected 7:00 a.m. as the preferred time for daily observations since it is most convenient for the majority of volunteers and a time when it is less likely to be raining or snowing. For mapping precipitation and comparing data among stations, it is helpful to all measure at about the same time.

    If your schedule does not permit you to check your gauge at 7:00 a.m., then please make sure you type in the actual time you took your observation on the data entry form. Observations made before 4:30 a.m. or after 9:30 a.m. will not appear on the daily maps.

    If it is raining or snowing at or near 7:00 a.m., it is important for you to report **exactly** when you read and emptied your gauge so we can interpret the data properly. If it is not raining or snowing, reporting the exact reading time is not critical.

    We realize that you may not have time to report your observations to us exactly at 7:00 a.m. The sooner you can report, the better, but report whenever you are able. You can go back at any time to report data from past weeks, months, and even years. Please make sure you enter the date of observation correctly when you enter data from the past.

  - **<u>REPORTING INTERVALS</u>**

    We greatly appreciate daily reports covering consistent 24-hour periods when possible, even when there has been no precipitation (report 0.00") or just a trace (report T). For many reasons, including drought monitoring, it is just as important to know that it didn't rain at your location,

as well as when it did!! If you don't know how much precipitation fell on a particular day or over an accumulation period, type in M (which means "missing data").

To report for multiple days, i.e. after a weekend or holiday, use the "*MULTI-DAY ACCUMULATION FORM*", found in the left hand column of your 'My Data' page. Here, fill in the dates as appropriate and report the accumulation of data in the proper field. Notes always help!

- **REVIEWING YOUR DATA REPORTS**

After you begin reporting data to CoCoRaHS, please refer to the **"MAPS"** section on our web site for your city and county. Make sure your data are appearing, and appearing in the correct location. If not, please let us know immediately. When you submit your data, it may take a few minutes before it appears on the maps.

Also, check data by clicking "*MY DATA*" or "*VIEW DATA*". Always make sure your data are typed correctly and entered on the right date. If you make a mistake with a daily entry, click on the pencil to the right of the report and resubmit the corrected entry. Many may look at and use your data and these data will be archived indefinitely.

All maps, both recent and historic, are posted on our Web site. As you examine them, you will begin to learn along with us how precipitation patterns vary in our states. You can review all the data reports you have submitted, or you can check the rainfall totals for all stations in your county—and more. Just experiment!

Tips and Suggestions:
- Many teachers have found that the best practice is to bring the rain gauge inside first thing in the morning. If there is no precipitation, it can be left outside, but please report your zeros!!! If there is precipitation, have the students determine the amount and have them enter the data and replace the gauge outside.
- Please make sure to oversee the entered amounts to make certain that errors are not being reported. (See 'Reviewing Your Data Reports' above).

Daily Report Form:

Figure 1

Record your precipitation measurement from inside the gauge in hundredths (0.00). If snow fell, it should be melted in the gauge and then measured.

Record snowfall accumulation from snowboard in tenths (0.0)

Record total snow depth on ground to nearest half inch

Other information can be entered if observed (optional)

Multi-Day Report form:

Figure 2