

## CoCoRaHS Schools: Basic Training

- **Sign up online at [www.cocorahs.org/Application.aspx](http://www.cocorahs.org/Application.aspx)**
  - You'll receive login name/password after you register
  - Example:
    - First Name: Johnson
    - Last Name: Elementary School
- **Install the rain gauge (Do Your Best ☺ )**
  - At least as far away from an object as the height of the object, preferably twice as far as the height of surrounding objects
  - Away from sprinklers, animals, or anything that might affect what gauge catches
  - Make sure the top of the gauge sits 2 ft above ground in open areas, 5 ft above ground in developed areas
  - Make sure the gauge is level
  - Cut the top of the post the gauge mounted on so that the top of the post slants away from the gauge (reduces splash)
- **Reading the rain gauge**
  - 7 AM is best, 5-9 AM is OK; enter it on the website ASAP
  - Reports of zero rainfall are important too
  - Don't report morning dew (can mention in comments if you like)
  - Inner cylinder when full holds about 1 inch of rain (maybe a few hundredths of an inch more than that)
  - If the inner cylinder's not full, you have less than an inch of rain
  - If water has collected in the outer cylinder, you have more than an inch
  - May need to pour out the first inch of rain from the inner cylinder, then pour in the water from the outer cylinder to measure it, and add it all together
  - The inner and outer cylinders combined can hold a little over 11 inches of rain

- **Measuring the water content of snow**

- If snow is expected, remove the funnel and inner cylinder – let snow accumulate directly in outer cylinder
- Pour some warm water in the inner cylinder and measure it the same way you measure rain
- Pour that warm water on the snow in the outer cylinder and melt it
- Pour the warm water-snowmelt mixture into the inner cylinder and measure it, then subtract out the amount of warm water that was added

- **Measuring new snowfall and snowdepth**

- Measure new snowfall on a flat surface such as a board, or level ground
- Measure snowdepth with a ruler – you may need to take several measurements and average them if the snow isn't evenly distributed
- Example: if half the ground has 2 inches of snow and the other half is bare, report 1.0 inches for snow depth
- If more than half the ground is bare, report T (trace) for snow depth

- **Sleet**

- Sleet is melted snow that has refrozen on its way down from the clouds – small ice pellets that bounce when they hit the ground
- Sleet should be measured the same way as snow, including depth on ground if applicable

- **Freezing rain**

- Freezing rain is liquid rain that freezes when it comes into contact with a cold surface such as the ground
- Remove the inner cylinder and funnel; accumulate freezing rain in outer cylinder only
- Pour some warm tap water into the inner cylinder and measure it as if it were rainfall; write down this measurement
- Pour the warm water into the outer cylinder and melt the accumulated freezing rain
- Pour the melted snow into the inner cylinder and measure it
- Remember to subtract the amount of warm water you added
- Freezing rain is not reported as new snow, but if freezing rain has accumulated on the ground, you do report the depth as snow on the ground

- **Entering your data**

- Go to [www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org), click on “My Data” (in blue bar near top of page)
- Enter your username/password; will take you to daily precip report page
- Can also enter multi-day reports, hail observations and intense precipitation reports by choosing from menu at left side of page
- If you observe rainfall of more than 0.30 an hour, submit an intense precipitation report
- When done, click “Submit Data”

- **Viewing your report on the CoCoRaHS map**

- From map on CoCoRaHS home page, click on Georgia
- Click on your county for a closer look

- **Multi-day reports**

- If you haven’t measured your rainfall for several days, it needs to be entered as a multi-day report
- On the menu at the left side of the “My Data” page, choose “Multi-Day Accumulation”
- The first date you enter should be one day *after* your last report
- Also enter the day and time that you read the gauge at the end of the accumulation period
- Example: Nolan reads his rain gauge at 7AM Monday, then leaves for a business trip. When he returns Friday afternoon, he finds 1.37 inches of rain in his gauge. All he knows for certain is that the rain fell sometime after 7AM Monday. On the Multi-Day Accumulation page he enters ***Tuesday***’s date as the start date (because the date on a CoCoRaHS observation marks the end of a 24-hour period of accumulation.) He enters 5PM Friday as the time the gauge was read. The next morning, he makes his usual 7AM rain reading, reporting any rain that has fallen since 5PM Friday.

- **Monthly Zeroes**

- The Monthly Zeroes page allows you to simply click a box on a calendar to report zero precipitation for a day
- It’s also a quick way to view all your entries for a given month
- Click on “Monthly Zeroes” in the menu on the left side of the “My Data” page