RAIN GAUGE MONITORING

Monitoring the amount of rain falling on your yard is great way to learn about water, specifically precipitation. Rain gauges are inexpensive, easy to install, and can be used to monitor daily precipitation totals. Observing and monitoring precipitation with a rain gauge can help participants understand how much rain falls into their yard and conserve water. Precipitation data gathered from the rain gauge can be reported directly to the State Office of Climatology *(www.climate.umn.edu)* and is used to develop maps and reports of precipitation trends.

Outcome

Use a rain gauge to monitor the amount of precipitation on your yard and report data.

Audience

Youth (ages 13+), adults

Time

15 - 20 minutes, daily

Concepts

- Learn how to use a rain gauge for monitoring precipitation levels.
- Report daily precipitation totals to the State Office of Climatology.
- Understand water conservation strategies.

Supplies

- Rain gauge
- Computer with internet access to report data

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Preparation

- Buy a rain gauge from your local hardware store.
- Create your own rain gauge with an empty can marked in one-inch increments

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Procedure

- Install a rain gauge at your home or at your program site.
- Monitor daily precipitation by reading the measurements on the side of the rain gauge.
- Data can be reported directly at with the State Office of Climatology at ***www.climate.umn.edu*** through the MNgage program. The data is used to develop maps and reports of precipitation trends.
- Participants can also be part of the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) program program by signing up at ***www.cocorahs.org***. Participants will be able to enter data and see the results immediately.
- Compare measurement results from different locations around the community. Discuss why there might be differences (or similarities) in water levels.
- Think about ways to conserve water and discuss this with your group. Use the information in the background section or the 10 Things You Can Do to Protect Minnesota's Lakes and Streams brochure for ideas.

Discussion questions

- What did you learn from rain gauge monitoring?
- Why is data from rain monitoring important information to report?
- How is precipitation connected to climate change?
- What observations did you make when monitoring the rain gauge? What observations did you make when comparing your rain gauge measurements with those taken from other locations in your community?
- How much water do you think a typical lawn needs each week? A tree? A flower garden?
- How much rain do you think comes off your roof in a one-inch rainfall?