

# SECCHI DISK TRANSPARENCY Procedure Checklist

## Equipment Checklist

- Boating safety equipment and anchor\*
  - Secchi disk procedure
  - Data sheet
  - Pencil or indelible ink pen\*
  - Secchi disk and measured line
- \*Provided by volunteer



## Data Collection

### A. Sampling location, frequency, and timing

1. Take a reading every week or every other week according to the dates on the data sheet.
2. 8 readings spread evenly throughout the summer is the minimum expected effort; more is better.
3. It is best to measure transparency at the same time each week, sometime between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on a sunny, calm day.

### C. Prepare for monitoring

- 1. Fill out the data sheet and gather equipment (Lake Name, County, Date, Field ID #, etc.).

### B. Proceed to your monitoring location over the deepest point in the lake

### D. Making the Secchi disk measurement

- 1. On the shaded side of the boat, lower Secchi disk until it disappears from sight; note depth.
  - a. Do not wear sunglasses or a viewscope
- 2. Raise the Secchi disk until it reappears; note depth.
- 3. Calculate the average of the two depths and record this on the data sheet as the final reading. Round to the nearest half foot.
- 4. If the Secchi disk rests on the lake bottom during measurement, record the depth and write "on bottom" on your data sheet.

## Reporting Your Results

**Deadline: October 31.**

1. If you can, **please enter your data into the MiCorps Data Exchange found at MiCorps.net.**
  - a. If you are unable to enter your own data into the MiCorps Data Exchange, MiCorps staff will enter your data for you after we receive a copy of your data sheets in the mail or via email at [MiCorps@msu.edu](mailto:MiCorps@msu.edu).
2. **Whether you entered your data online or not, mail or email a copy of your data sheet at the end of the season.**

Mail a copy to:

Michigan State University Extension  
4747 W 48<sup>th</sup> St, STE 107  
Fremont, MI 49412

**OR**

For electronic submission, send to: [MiCorps@msu.edu](mailto:MiCorps@msu.edu)

All data must be entered into the database and the copies mailed or emailed no later than October 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Questions?

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