STEM Careers

Hydrologist

Job Description: Research the distribution, circulation, and physical properties of underground and surface waters; study the form and intensity of precipitation, its rate of infiltration into the soil, movement through the earth, and its return to the ocean and atmosphere (the water cycle).

What do Hydrologists do?

- Evaluate data and provide recommendations regarding hydroelectric power plants, irrigation systems, flood warning systems, and waste treatment facilities.
- Study and analyze the physical aspects of the earth in terms of the hydrological components, including atmosphere, hydrosphere, and interior structure.
- Administer programs designed to ensure the proper sealing of abandoned wells.
- Install, maintain, and calibrate instruments, such as those that monitor water levels, rainfall, and sediments.
- Answer questions and provide technical assistance and information to contractors or the public regarding issues such as well drilling, code requirements, hydrology, and geology.
- Measure and graph phenomena such as lake levels, stream flows, and changes in water volumes.
- Investigate properties, origins, and activities of glaciers, ice, snow, and permafrost.
- Apply research findings to help minimize the environmental impacts of pollution, waterborne diseases, erosion, and sedimentation.

Your Interests:

- Do you enjoy science?
- Do you enjoy math?
- Would you like to make and study maps?
- Do you like to design things?

Outlook: Green Job

Average Salary - $35.42 hourly, $73,670 annual
Projected Job Openings – 3,800 over the next 10 years

Education/Program of Study:

- Bachelor's Degree in Hydrology or a major that deals with hydrology plus additional coursework in geology or soil science.
- Many hydrologists also earn Master's or Doctoral degrees as well.

Sources:
O*NET Online