

Appendix III: Participant Instructions

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT

CATCHING FROGS:

1. Select the pond, creek, etc. that you plan to sample. Scope it out PRIOR to taking students.
2. Locate your location on a map to determine the GPS (latitude, longitude, elevation/altitude), using your smart phone or tablet. If you don't know how to do this, simply run a Google search using the make/model of your phone AND the phrase "how to find gps coordinates." Usually, this info can be found in some type of map app. *Record this info on the data sheet.*
3. Take a photo of the water body, with smartphone or camera. *Record this info on the data sheet.*
4. Before entering any water body, first thoroughly disinfect your shoes/boots and nets (if planning to use one). The easiest way to do this is to mix up a solution of 10% bleach in a spray bottle, and completely spray down the net(s) and shoes/boots. Allow them to dry in the sun for 5-10 minutes before entering the pond. The bleach will evaporate off. [Note: this is an extremely important step, because it is very easy for us to spread chytrid fungus from pond to pond on our shoes or nets!]
5. Wash your hands thoroughly with antibacterial soap or hand sanitizer, before attempting to touch any frogs (and between each frog if you catch more than one). This ensures that any chytrid fungus isn't transferred from frog to frog. If using hand sanitizer, allow the sanitizer to dry completely, then rinse your hands with water before you touch any frogs. The sanitizer can damage their skin!
6. Note: If you choose to visit more than one pond, creek, etc. you will need to use a **new data sheet** for each location. Download extra here: <http://cameronsiler.com/citizen-science/>

COLLECTING DATA:

1. Once you have caught a frog, identify the species using the provided identification guide for Oklahoma. *Record this info on the data sheet.*
2. Open one of the individually wrapped swabs. Do not set it down or allow it to touch any other surfaces. Swab the body of the frog with the swab tip, using the following techniques.

Use as much pressure as would be necessary to thoroughly erase pencil from paper, using a pencil eraser. Otherwise, you will not dislodge the chytrid fungus from the skin. [You can also watch a video to learn the process here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ip-urLMLK9k>]

- a. Rub the frog's belly, 5 times, back and forth
- b. Rub the frog's side, 5 times, back and forth
- c. Rub the frog's other side, 5 times, back and forth
- d. Rub down one hind leg, 5 times
- e. Rub down the other hind leg, 5 times
- f. Rub on the webbing in between each hind toe, 1 time per webbing

3. Carefully place the swab into one of the provided vials, without touching the outside. Break off the stick or cut it with scissors, so that the swab tip is fully contained within the vial. Screw the lid on tight. Label the vial (using the provided Sharpie marker) with your last name and a consecutive sample number starting with 1 (i.e. Watters #1, 2, etc.) for each frog that you swab. *Record this info on the data sheet.*
4. Take three pictures of the frog, which will allow us to confirm your ID. Label the photo file names in the same way as the frog, but with letters for each one (i.e. Watters #1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 2b, 2c). *Record the photo names on the data sheet.*
 - a. Close-up of the side view of the head
 - b. The frog's back
 - c. The frog's belly
5. Repeat these steps with all frogs you catch, up to 10 total.

RELEASE ALL FROGS: Release the frogs back where you found them. Do not attempt to relocate any frogs, even if they seem to be in a less than ideal location.

WHEN YOU ARE DONE:

1. Place data sheet(s) and vials in Ziploc bag; be sure it is sealed. Return all unused materials, and guidebook, to the box.
2. Contact us via email to let us know that you have completed sampling and plan to return the kit: camsiler@ou.edu or jwatters@ou.edu.
3. Notify us in the email to whether you plan to mail back the kit or drop it off in person (and when).
4. Upload all the pictures of frogs and habitat. Label them with your last name, sample number, and picture ID (i.e. Habitat, 1A, 1B, 1C, Frog 2A, 2B, 2C). Use the following upload link and create a new subfolder with your last name: [link changes each year]
5. If mailing, please use the provided prepaid shipping label. Be sure to add your name and address to the sender lines, in case of issues with mailing.
6. Drop-off at the Sam Noble Museum, 2401 Chautauqua Ave., Norman, OK 73072
 - Bring the kit to the small staff entrance to the left of the large main entrance – tell the security guard it is for Jessa Watters or Dr. Cameron Siler.
 - Availability: 7am–10pm, 7 days/week.