Before collecting water samples, make sure you have the following equipment:

* Bucket (or large bowl)
* Camera or Cellphone
* Cooler with ice or refrigeration nearby
* Field Notebook or Field Note Sheet
* GPS or Cellphone
* Pencil
* Sampling Bottles
* Sharpie/Marker
* Waders/Waterproof Boots/Shoes and clothes you don’t mind get wet or dirty

After your equipment is gathered, proceed to the sampling location. Then follow the following steps:

1. Record information about the site in your Field Notebook. Include the following:
   1. Date
   2. Site ID/Name
   3. Site Latitude (Use GPS or cellphone)
   4. Site Longitude (Use GPS or cellphone)
   5. Site Description
   6. Weather Conditions
   7. Photograph of site (use phone/camera) or sketch the site
2. After recording in your Field Notebook, wade into the middle of the stream flow with your bucket. If the water is too deep or quick to safely enter, stay on the bank or find another site.
3. Face upstream (where the water is flowing from) and dunk your bucket into the water, rinsing it, then dumping the water downstream (where the water is flowing towards). Do this at least three times.
4. Fill your bucket with water from upstream and return to the bank.
5. Carefully pour water from your bucket into the sampling bottle, rinsing it, then dumping the water out. Do this at least three times.
6. Fill you bottle to the very top, letting it overfill.
7. Fill your bottle cap with water and then quickly cap the bottle. Do your best to not lose water. This is done to prevent air from being in the water.
8. Write the site name, date, and location on the bottle.
9. Store the sample bottle in a cooler with ice and return home. Keep the sample in a refrigerated place to prevent any chemical reactions from occurring so the sample is representative of the stream.
10. If moving sample to new location for testing, keep it in a cold, dark container such as a cooler with ice.