Stream Condition Index Training Program

SCI Training Process
1. Background Information
2. Field Training:
   a. Sampling Site Selection and System Classification
   b. Appropriate Antecedent Hydrologic Conditions
   c. Optimal Habitat Selection
   d. Sampling Technique
   e. Field Sorting as a Training Tool
3. Apprenticeship Program

1. Background Information
   (https://floridadep.gov/dear/bioassessment/content/bioassessment-training-evaluation-and-quality-assurance#sci)
   • Discuss Required SOPs, SCI 1000 and FT-3000 (SCI 1, HA 1)
   • Discuss “Sampling and Use of the Stream Condition Index for Assessing Flowing Waters: A Primer”
   • Give PowerPoint Presentation, “SCI Training Presentation”

2. Field Training
   • Discuss if an SCI should be performed at the site- (SCI #2 and HA #2)
     o Site selection must consider the purpose for sampling
     o Determine if the system functioning as a stream
   b) Evaluate current water levels
     o Students measure and flag 100 m section (SCI #3 and HA #3)
   c) Discuss and show productive habitats (SCI #7-9 and HA #4)
     o Have students map habitat (SCI #5 and HA #4)
     o Perform a Habitat Assessment (SCI #6 and HA #6)
   d) Have students perform sweeps in all habitats
     o Demonstrate proper sweeping technique in all habitats (SCI #12-14)
     o Both good & poor habitats should be swept
   e) Have students pick bugs from each sweep
     o Compare sweeps in good habitat vs. poor habitat
     o Note number of different species and total number of organisms in each sweep

3. Apprenticeship
   • Students participate in a full SCI (20 sweeps) and HA at 10 different sites (SCI # 16 and HA # 7). The tenth site should be used to evaluate the knowledge and skills obtained at the previous 9 sites.

SCI and Habitat Assessment (HA) numbers refer to the specific objectives listed in the training checklists (SCI 1000, FT 3000).