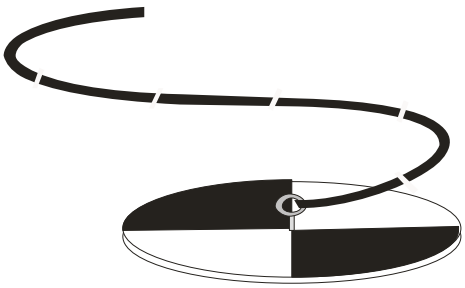
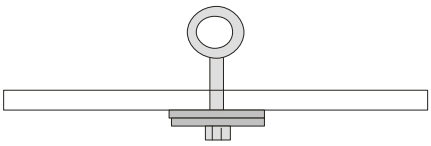
Secchi Disk Instructions

Making a Secchi Disk

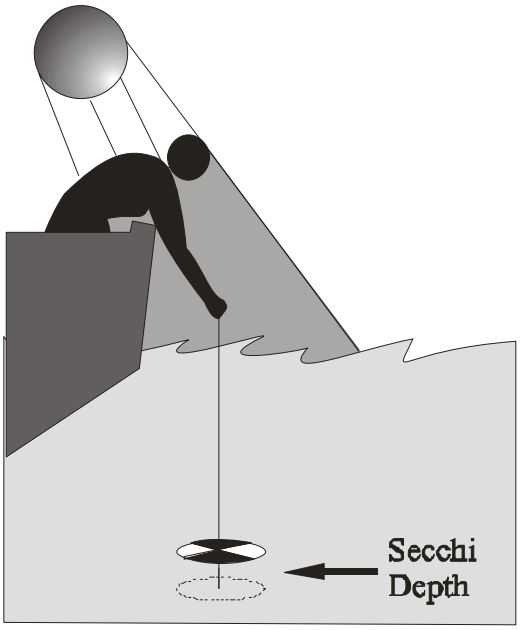


The Secchi disk enclosed in your kit (for new volunteers) will need to have an eye bolt, weight and rope attached (marked in metres). The rope length will depend on how clear the lake is. Lakes in Ontario have between a few metres and upwards of 10 metres of water clarity. You can mark the rope in half metre intervals and estimate the tenth metre intervals between those marks. You will need to add enough weight to the bottom of the disk to sink it. This can be accomplished by adding an eye bolt through the centre hole (for the rope) and adding a few large washers to the bottom. Some stores carry large square "dock hardware" washers that are ideal to use as weights.



Determining the Secchi Depth

1. Lower the Secchi disk until it disappears.
2. Note the depth to nearest tenth of a metre.
3. Raise the Secchi until it reappears.
4. Note the depth.
5. The *Secchi depth* is the midpoint between these 2 depths. Record this depth with the other required information on the waterproof observation sheet in your kit.



NOTE:
Take the reading on the shady side of the boat. Do not wear sunglasses. Take the reading as close to mid-day as possible (10am - 2pm) in the same water & weather conditions. Record depths in tenths of meters i.e. 4.2m

Did you know?
The Secchi disk is named after Father Pietro Secchi(1818-1878), a scientific advisor to the Pope. The Secchi disk was first used in 1865 in the Mediterranean Sea.