



NATURAL
RESOURCES

Hydrologist

A Hydrologist examines the physical characteristics, distribution, and circulation of water above and below the earth's surface.



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Inspiring Minds to Grow

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career profile

Name: James Ramirez
Job Title: Hydrologist

Employer: United States Geological Survey

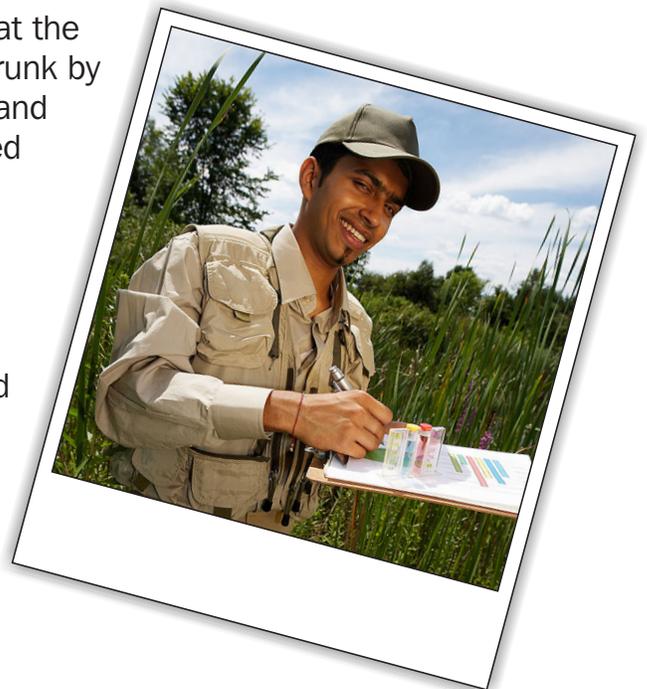
Education: BS, University of New Hampshire: Durham

☀️ I remember being told when I was young that the water molecules I drink today could have been drunk by a dinosaur millions of years ago. That possibility and the idea of water cycling on Earth really fascinated me. I learned more about the water cycle and hydrology in high school and decided to major in environmental science so I could become a hydrologist.

☀️ I am one of the many hydrologists employed by the United States Geological Survey. I study the movement of water and its impacts on the environment. I manage field research trials and supervise the technicians that assist with the research. I see my work as being important in

regards to environmental preservation, remediation, and flood control. My research involves measuring the properties (like volume and stream flow) of bodies of water. I use computer models to forecast future water supplies, the spread of pollution, and other events. I study water contamination, how it takes place, and how it can be prevented. I am also required to prepare reports and documents with findings and recommendations.

☀️ As I've gotten a little older, I find that I am still fascinated with the water cycle. I take pleasure in knowing that my work helps the environment and everyone who depends on water resources. I can't think of anything I'd rather be doing.



Hydrologist

overview



A **hydrologist** studies the quantity, distribution, circulation, and physical properties of groundwater and surface waters.

suggested high school courses



agricultural science, biology, chemistry, earth science, physics, and mathematics

experience needed



Seek job placement opportunities while attending school. Plan and implement a related Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program.

degree(s) required



A bachelor's degree in earth science, geology, chemistry, or environmental science/engineering is adequate for some entry-level jobs. However, better jobs usually require at least a master's degree.

potential employers



private laboratory analysis firms, state environmental or natural resources agencies, United States Geological Survey

salary range



\$59,496 to \$82,000

employment outlook and trends



The employment outlook for hydrologists is considered to be **very good**.

professional organizations



International Association for Environmental Hydrology hydroweb.com/
American Water Resources Association www.awra.org/



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