



2022 Flathead Lake Secchi Dip In

Thank you for your interest in the Flathead Lake Secchi Dip In. We hope you are as excited to participate as we are to have you join us! Below you will find detailed instructions on how to take your Secchi Disk measurement. Thank you again for your interest, passion, and commitment to keeping Flathead Lake blue!

Secchi Disk Measurement

Water clarity measured with a Secchi Disk is a simple, yet very reliable way to monitor water quality. Despite its simplicity, it is important that measurements are taken consistently across observers to insure that all the data is comparable. Please follow the instructions below.

1) Before you Dip-in.

- Please take your measurements between 10 am and 2 pm. This optimizes our ability to compare data. • If you have prescription glasses- **wear them!** If you use polarized sunglasses- **Please take them off!** • When you arrive at the location(s) that you want to measure, it is best if you can anchor your boat to reduce drift. If not possible, please make a note if your Secchi Disk drifts or not.
- Record your location either using a GPS or please take a geotag enabled photo (smartphone) of you sampling. You may need to go into your phone settings to ensure geotagged photos. • Fill out the data sheet with your information and please answer the site characteristics questions. If you measure more than one site, please use a unique datasheet for each site.
- Once anchored, drop your Secchi disk over the **shaded side** of your boat. Be sure to hang on to the line!

2) Let your Secchi Disk sink until the exact depth you can no longer see the disk.

3) Grab your line at the water surface to mark your measurement. The line is marked by BLACK dashes indicating meter intervals and RED dashes indicating half meter intervals. As you pull the disk up, estimate the distance to the nearest to disk BLACK mark using $\frac{1}{4}$ meter increments. Then, simply count the number of BLACK marks as you pull up your disk to the surface.

4) Record this depth on your datasheet as the **Disappear Depth** (record as meters despite the units on data sheet.)

5) Drop your Secchi Disk again to ~1 meter deeper than you can see the disk, pull the disk up until the disk reappears, and record the depth as before.

6) Record this depth as the **Reappear Depth** on the datasheet.

7) Look around! Take in the fact that you are on one of the most beautiful lakes in the world! Take a photo having fun and doing meaningful science and share it with us!

8) Submit your results at www.flatheadlakers.org.

Thank you,
Hilary and Shawn Devlin

Contact us with questions: hilary@flatheadlakers.org, shawn.devlin@umontana.edu or 406-270-1462