

This is Ryan Aylward with the National Weather Service with your Community Comment.

By now I am sure most people have seen the video that shows three little kids arguing whether it is raining or sprinkling outside. It went viral in 2014 and has been re-circulating again on the Internet. Eventually, this argument ends after the little girl lightly pokes the little boy in the chest which causes him to exclaim "Ow...You poked my heart". To see it for yourself just google "you poked my heart". We'll never know what truly happened that day but believe it or not there is a difference. We use terms like sprinkles, drizzle, rain, and rain showers to communicate characteristics about precipitation that numbers alone can't communicate. But we are scientists so, of course, we have technical definitions for these that aren't always useful. For example, drizzle is very small water droplets that have diameters less than 0.5 mm. Right.... Who is going to run outside with their rulers trying to measure a rain drop? So the take home message is that you should not get too hung up on these terms. If they help clarify the kind of rain for you, then great. But if they don't, then ignore them, and just pay attention to where we are forecasting rain, and how much we are forecasting. And if you want to help us do a better job forecasting rain in the region, consider becoming a citizen scientist by measuring and reporting rain where you live.

Every morning thousands of volunteers across the country wake up and go outside to record how much rainfall has occurred at their house. These volunteers send their reports to an organization called the Community Collaborative Rain Hail and Snow Network...

better known as CoCoRaHS. This organization compiles the rainfall and snowfall information on their website which is freely available to everyone. They also submit significant weather and hail reports to local NWS offices as soon as they receive a report to help forecasters understand what is happening in real time. For more information on how to join this great volunteer organization visit [CoCoRaHS.org](http://CoCoRaHS.org) for all the information and training that you will need to start taking accurate rainfall measurements. Currently, NW CA has 80 volunteers that help the local NWS office in Eureka understand how precipitation varies across our area and we want to take a minute to thank them for their dedication. We would LOVE to see even more volunteers across our area to better understand how precipitation varies. Again to find more information on this organization go to C O C O R A H S dot O R G.

The more information that we receive the better rainfall and river forecasts we can create to keep local residents safe. So the next time you hear a debate about rain vs. sprinkles you can look at your CoCoRaHS rain gauge and prevent a poked heart.

This has been Ryan Aylward with your Community Comment.