CHESAPEAKE BAY
Research Reserve
Education is Change on the Ground

A "SURE" Project

Shoring Up Resiliency through Education (SURE): Building understanding of how environment, science, and cultural heritage work together to strengthen community. SURE aims to support Somerset County in addressing regional vulnerability and community resilience through understanding the ways environment, science, and cultural heritage work together to strengthen community. Students in fifth, seventh, and ninth grades experience, study, and understand trends in local conditions such as weather and water quality that affect the natural resources upon which much of their local economy depends.

Over 600 students will be introduced to resiliency by interacting with local storytellers -- farmers, watermen, and scientists -- who can depict for students meaningfully through personal stories how aspects of local culture and livelihood are now and will be in the future affected by changing environmental conditions.

National Estuaries Day Event - 25th Year

Wetlands and Wildlife Field Day: A Celebration of National Estuaries Week since 1993, celebrates the many ways we benefit from healthy, thriving, coastal ecosystems. Over 25 years, approximately 5000 fourth grade students from Somerset County have spent a day at Monie Bay marshes where they explore the richness and value of our coastal communities through 6 educational stations. Wetlands and Wildlife Field Day is a great example of how communities benefit when federal, state and local partners collaborate to raise awareness of the importance of estuaries.

CBNERR In Maryland

• High school students study plankton through place-based learning at Jug Bay to understand how nutrients impact water quality.
• Middle School students grow and plant native wild rice to help restore acres of vital habitat for migrating marsh birds at Jug Bay.
• Families join hands and "Wade In" annually at Otter Point Creek, using a "sneaker index" to measure water clarity and raise awareness of a healthy land-water connection throughout the Bay.
• Teachers from around the watershed spent a week learning systems thinking and data literacy at Teachers On The Estuary (TOTE)

“First really want to bring this into my department when I have preservice with my teachers. As we implement NGSS in all of our classes I am determined to make them all Environmentally literate and climate change is a great way to engage students and teach many science concepts in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.”

Summer Roark, Science Teacher
Montgomery Blair High School
TOTE Alumni

“Great Professional Development - took me out of my comfort zone, stretched my strengths, will remain an influence on my teaching and my life!”

Jessica McGuire
7th grade teacher
Halifax Area Middle School
TOTE Alumni
National Estuarine Research Reserve Education
Change on the Ground in 2017

Connects
People to Estuaries

1 million+ ACRES
of natural classrooms & living laboratories with

28 INTERPRETIVE CENTERS

29 RESEARCH RESERVES

Aloha to our Hawai‘i Reserve, designated in 2017!

650,340 VISITORS
learn about estuaries through Research Reserve outreach & education

Prepares
the Next Generation

87,899 STUDENTS take learning out of the abstract & into the outdoors

3,079 TEACHERS
are trained in the estuary & supported in the classroom

ESTUARY SCIENCE
LOCAL DATA
LAB WORK
FIELD INVESTIGATION

SKILLS BUILT
✓ Observation
✓ Asking research questions
✓ Problem solving
✓ Data driven decision making

Improves
the Environment

12,849 CITIZENS are trained & inspired to protect their coasts & estuaries

28 RESEARCH RESERVE EDUCATORS
lead programs that foster coastal stewardship in communities in 23 states

coast.noaa.gov/estuaries

Creating value through education
39,035 volunteer hours = $942,305*

*Value of a volunteer hour is calculated at $24.14 based on data from the Independent Sector.