Students

The Rachel Carson site and Masonboro Island site of the North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve serve as perfect spots for students to learn all about estuaries and their importance. Each year, hundreds of students from around North Carolina visit these sites for a hands-on experience they will never forget. Each trip is tailored to the grade level’s science curriculum standards and allows the students to see, smell, and touch all the components that make North Carolina’s estuaries so unique.

Teachers

The goal of the teacher professional development workshops is to provide K-12 teachers and environmental educators with a dynamic learning experience based on estuarine and marine science to help foster coastal environmental stewardship and informed decision-making. Workshops are aligned with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, Ocean Literacy Concepts, and National Education Standards. Participants learn information and concepts about estuaries, the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, the North Carolina coast, and current estuarine research. Participants experience field-based explorations and activities to integrate into their learning environment.

Seeds to Shoreline

Seeds to Shoreline is a restoration project designed for teachers and students to grow *Spartina* plants in their classrooms. Through obtaining seeds, cultivating them, and then planting them on Reserve property, students learn how this plant serves a crucial role in North Carolina’s estuaries.

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North Carolina Reserve is one of 29 sites in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. Each site is a state-federal partnership that combines research, monitoring, and education to advance the understanding and management of estuarine environments.
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

RESEARCH RESERVES

29

ALASKA
PUERTO RICO
HAWAII

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

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

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

Volunteer Actions

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.