South Slough Reserve Education is Chang on the Ground

Volunteers Speak Volumes

Oregonians treasure meaningful outdoor education programs for students. Demand for these opportunities continues to increase. An amazing team of education volunteers is helping South Slough Reserve meet the needs of teachers, who more and more, are taking their students outside to learn.

South Slough Reserve’s enthusiastic volunteer educators have committed time, energy, and even their own resources to enhance student experiences. In 2017, volunteers assisted with over 50 school programs, providing meaningful learning experiences in the estuary and surrounding watershed.

Fostering Our Future

Friends of South Slough Reserve, Inc. initiated a program to recruit and support interns to train the next generation of scientists and educators. Between 2012 and 2017, South Slough Reserve hosted 51 interns. High school, undergraduate, and graduate students from 27 schools across the nation, as well as local adult learners, expanded their skills and identified career goals. This incredible program has strengthened the reserve’s ties to the local and regional communities while increasing its operating capacity.

Teachers Teaching Teachers

South Slough and its partners concluded the sixth year of the Oregon Coast Education Program, a comprehensive project to provide Oregon teachers with the resources and knowledge needed to teach about coastal ecosystems. 36 teachers participated in lead or peer roles, amassing tools and lessons that continue to be used in the classrooms and field each year.
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

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

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.

cost.noaa.gov/estuaries