Virginia Scientists and Educators Alliance Program Hits 10,000 Downloads

Since 2015, fifty-nine graduate students across Virginia have participated in the Virginia Scientists and Educators Alliance (VA SEA) program. The program, a collaborative project of Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) and VIMS Marine Advisory Program, allows students to enhance their science communication skills by developing middle and high school lesson plans based on their research. The lesson plans developed by our first five cohorts have been downloaded more than 10,000 times by educators in 138 countries. Now, we look to expand VA SEA through NERRS Science Collaborative funding into the Jacques Cousteau NERR and Florida Sea Grant.

Camp Launch

Camp Launch provides gifted students from low socioeconomic levels with unique academic and enrichment opportunities. In partnership with William & Mary’s School of Education, over 50 students participated in week or two-week-long summer programs focused on marine science. Students participate in lab and field experiences and conduct research projects, as well as participate in career and personal development seminars.

In-person
Teachers on the Estuary Returns

In 2022, our Teachers on the Estuary (TOTE) workshop returned to in-person programming after several years of the pandemic. Teachers from high needs school districts across Virginia attended a four-day workshop on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, learning about field sampling and corresponding classroom lessons to share with their students. This workshop for 12 teachers was held in conjunction with colleagues at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and 100% of attendees intend to integrate resources from the workshop into their classroom.

“Thanks to the environmental education programs provided through CBNERR, my students were able to investigate and further their understanding of marine species and habitats. Additionally, the students were able to experience techniques used by marine scientists in the field.”

Chenoa Payne Teacher

“Since going to the summer camps at VIMS as a child, I have had an interest in the Bay. Looking back, these camps fostered a love for marine science that I still have today.”

Joice Small
College student & previous summer camp participant
National Estuarine Research Reserve Education

Change on the Ground in 2022

Connects
People to Estuaries

1 million+ ACRES
of natural classrooms & living laboratories with
26 INTERPRETIVE CENTERS

30 RESEARCH RESERVES

Hello to the Connecticut Reserve, designated in 2022!

296,131 VISITORS
learn about estuaries through Research Reserve outreach & education

Prepares
the Next Generation

54,773 STUDENTS
take learning out of the abstract & into the outdoors

4,347 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

10,570 CITIZENS
are trained & inspired to protect their coasts & estuaries

30 RESEARCH RESERVE EDUCATORS
lead programs that foster coastal stewardship in communities in 25 states

cost.noaa.gov/estuaries

Creating value through education
37,371 volunteer hours = $1,119,261*

*Value of a volunteer hour is calculated at $20.95 based on data from the Independent Sector.