North Inlet-Winyah Bay Research Reserve

Education is Change on the Ground

Resiliency in Education for 2022

The North Inlet-Winyah Bay Reserve in Georgetown, SC offers opportunities to explore and experience a variety of estuary habitats through engaging, hands-on activities on-site. In person events dramatically changed due to extended impacts of COVID restrictions. A positive aspect to this situation were the many new virtual programs that reached audiences well beyond our geographic local target audiences and increased the Reserve’s visibility like never before.

Multiplying the Strength of Community Partnerships

Reserve educators and interns visited library branches in three surrounding counties to share family-friendly estuary and watershed education activities to expand engagement with community members who may have never visited the Reserve. These off site events reached over 750 participants.

Celebrations of the North Inlet-Winyah Bay Reserve’s 30th anniversary also provided multiple community outreach programs at local museums as well as research talks highlighting over forty years of long-term research, monitoring, and stewardship activities within the Reserve’s boundaries.

Our National Estuaries Day Open House hosted 175 visitors to our Hobcaw Barony Discovery Center and offered lab and marsh tours, research overviews, fish printing, an estuary photo booth, and live animals from the salt marsh. An estuary education exhibit downtown on the waterfront at the annual Georgetown Wooden Boat Show engaged 650 visitors over the three day event.

2022

**Connect**

2,563 walk in visitors Hobcaw Barony Discovery Center

**Prepare**

18 teachers trained
537 students engaged
736 student contact hours

**Improve**

346 volunteers activated
784 volunteer hours donated

“I have lived here all my life, and never knew this existed!”

Community member during one of our public library events

“This is SO COOL! Do you offer free events like these all the time?”

Family participants during a summer Beach Night Life program

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South Carolina’s North Inlet-Winyah Bay Reserve is one of 30 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 2022

Connects
People to Estuaries

1 million+
ACRES
of natural classrooms &
living laboratories with

26
INTERPRETIVE
centers

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

SKILLS BUILT

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

ESTUARY SCIENCE
LOCAL DATA
LAB WORK
FIELD INVESTIGATION

Implements
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

VOLUNTEER ACTIONS

✓ Protect wildlife
✓ Monitor water quality
✓ Plant native species
✓ Clean up the coasts

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

*Value of a volunteer hour is calculated at $29.95
based on data from the Independent Sector.