

Delaware Research Reserve Education is Change on the Ground



2016

Connect



31 public programs
1,399 program attendees
901 contact hours



Prepare

70 teachers
2,484 students engaged
5,568 student contact hours

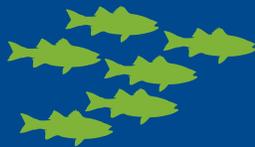
Improve



1,245 volunteers
donated 2,934 hours

“Our fourth graders who come each year really benefit from this experience, learning about how much water we have in Delaware and the important role it plays in our lives.”

Jennifer Donihue
Lighthouse
Christian School



“I’m a volunteer from Massachusetts for the horseshoe crab census. Great people, great town, great state, best of all worlds. They do great work for mother nature’s creations. Their premises are great, nice nature walk.”

Patty Rux
Volunteer

Students Make a Splash with Land, Water, and History

Learning about the estuary is not just about the science, it’s also all about the history! To bring this multidisciplinary idea home, the Delaware Reserve partners with the Delaware Historical and Cultural Affairs program to organize and host the annual **“Make a Splash Water Festival.”**

Fourth grade students from across the state attend to participate in hands-on learning activities about Delaware’s land, water, and history. At each station, they explore a different topic like marine debris and micro-plastics, water pollution and solutions, Delaware’s wetlands, mosquitoes, the uses of water in colonial cooking, historical use of water wheels and groundwater- just to name a few.

The festival has been educating students and encouraging actions to help protect water resources for 18 years, and has become the capstone fieldtrip for many fourth grade teachers **reaching over 12,000 students.**

Hurray for Horseshoe Crabs!

On dark, and often windy nights in May and June, volunteers armed with only a headlamp, quadrat, and data sheets head out to count spawning horseshoe crabs along the Delaware Bay beaches. Why do these volunteers spend their time on dark beaches you may wonder, well for the love of horseshoe crabs of course!

Due to over-harvesting of the crab into the 1990s, their populations and the Red Knot showed a steep decline in the Delaware Bay. To combat the decline, management controls were put in place and to ensure these controls were working- a survey was created. Now almost 20 years later, the survey still continues thanks to the help from dedicated volunteers.

On average, **over 120 volunteers** assist every year in the counts and **over 50% of those volunteers return year after year** to help!

Delaware 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**



**650,340
VISITORS**

learn about estuaries through Research Reserve outreach & education



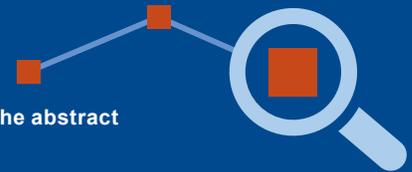
Aloha to our Hawai'i Reserve, designated in 2017!

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



SKILLS BUILT

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

ESTUARY SCIENCE

LOCAL DATA

LAB WORK

FIELD INVESTIGATION

Improves

the Environment

**12,849
CITIZENS**

are trained & inspired to protect their coasts & estuaries



VOLUNTEER ACTIONS

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

**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*