

Elkhorn Slough Reserve - A living Classroom



2017

Connect



6,000 Students engaged
9,000 Student contact hours
30,000 Visitors



Prepare

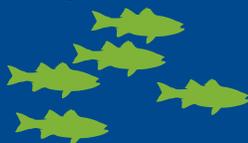
9 Unique workshops for teachers
125 Teachers Trained
More than 5,000 students reached

Improve



90 Students participated in Estuary Explorers After School program

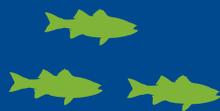
47 High School students in the WATCH Program



"I enjoyed the hike. I learned about how farms can effect wetlands. Thank you for having us!"
Student,
Washington Middle School

"All staff members were enthusiastic, engaging, and knew well their areas of expertise. Thank you!"

Teacher,
Teachers on the Reserve workshop



Bugs, Oak Groves, and Water Quality

Each year education staff at the Elkhorn Slough Reserve engage over 6,000 students in meaningful estuarine science and exploration. From K to College, students explore wildlife and habitats in the Elkhorn Slough watershed through NGSS connected activities. As students move through the grade-level learning pathways, they develop a sense of place and understanding of their connection to preserving and protecting the Elkhorn Slough Reserve.

Building Confidence and Competence

Teaching science can be scary if it is not your area of expertise. The Elkhorn Slough Reserve *Teachers on the Reserve* workshops develop knowledge and skills in elementary school teachers giving them both confidence and competence to engage their students in exciting environmental lessons both at the Reserve and in their classroom. Specialized workshops such as the Reserve's *Teachers on the Estuary*, *GLOBE*, and *SWMP-Data Day*, offer opportunities for K-College teachers to expand their skills in guiding students through data collection, analysis, and application.

Making Deeper Connections

The Estuary Explorers Club

Estuary! Explorers! The cry rings out every Wednesday from the 90+ students who call themselves the Estuary Explorers. These local 2-4 graders engage in weekly exploration, stewardship and monitoring, honing their investigative skills. After 4 years with the after school program, the students develop a sense of ownership and responsibility for the Reserve.

WATCH

Each year a select group of area high school students spends a semester at the Reserve developing scientific questions and carrying out investigations facilitated by Reserve educators. In its 10th year, Watsonville Area Teens Conserving Habitats (WATCH) has brought over 500 students to the Elkhorn Slough Reserve and seen many of these students go on to study the sciences in college.

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

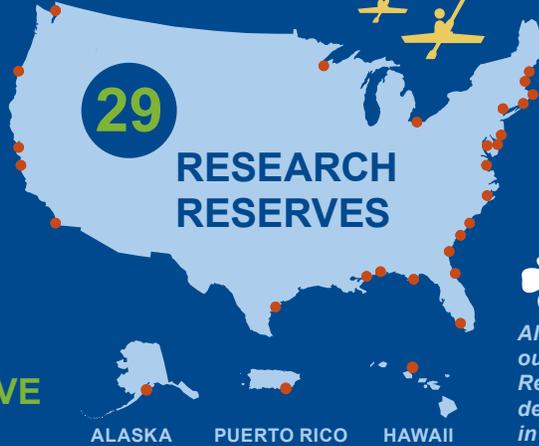
People to Estuaries

**1 million+
ACRES**

of natural classrooms & living laboratories with



**28 INTERPRETIVE
CENTERS**



**650,340
VISITORS**

learn about estuaries through Research Reserve outreach & education



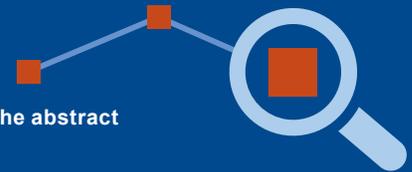
Aloha to our Hawai'i Reserve, designated in 2017!

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*