

Grand Bay Research Reserve Education is Change on the Ground



2017

Connect



15,987 acres of wetlands
2,043 acres of uplands
2,161 visitors



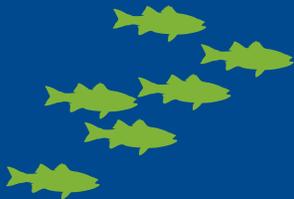
Prepare

45 teachers engaged
1,951 students engaged
1,325 student contact hours

Improve



6 volunteer veterans
800 volunteer hours



Art and Nature

At the Reserve our mission is to connect our community to their local habitat. One of the most successful ways we have done this is through our batik art workshops. Come out for the weekend to fully immerse in nature through art. We walk through pine trails, kayak down bayous, and boat through cypress swamps. We bring our inspiration back to the classroom and infuse it into our artwork. In two years, over 75 Reserve inspired art pieces have been created through this workshop.

On the Road Program

The On the Road program comes into schools to teach students the importance of ecology, stewardship, and conservation. The students later come to the Reserve to put what they learned into action! They learn everything from how to throw a cast net, to identify plants, to check water quality, and so much more. This program has had remarkable success, and it has been incorporated into several school districts as part of their regular teaching programs. Since 2011, the On the Road program has seen roughly 12,000 K-12 students. Ultimately, the goal of the program is to inspire future generations to become good and knowledgeable stewards of our fragile coastal environment.

Veteran Fire Crew

The Reserve and other partners collaborated with the Student Conservation Association to help post-9/11 veterans transition back into civilian life, through a program called the Veteran Fire Corps (VFC). The VFC provides conservation and management job training in wildland fire mitigation, which increases wildland fire mitigation capacity at the national, state, and local levels. In 2017 at the Reserve, the VFC assisted in burning 3,316 acres (2,610 public lands & 706 private lands). One landowner noted his gratitude for the VFC, who helped him meet his prescribed burn target for the first time since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. At the Reserve, they helped maintain accessibility of our public trails and long-term monitoring sites, and did select cutting to help restore over 20 acres of wet pine savanna habitat, contributing to over 800 volunteer hours. Since finishing the program, all 6 VFC members were placed in natural resource management positions nationwide.

Mississippi's Grand Bay 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.



Grand Bay
National Estuarine
Research Reserve



ENHANCE • PROTECT • CONSERVE

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



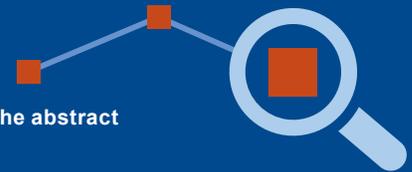
Aloha to our Hawai'i Reserve, designated in 2017!

Prepares

the Next Generation

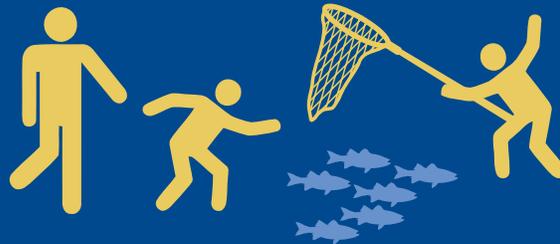
87,899 STUDENTS

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*