

Mission-Aransas Research Reserve Education is Change on the Ground



2017

Connect



186,189 acres of coastal estuary habitats
13,790 visitors to reserve
Wetland Education Center in Port Aransas &
Bay Education Center in Rockport



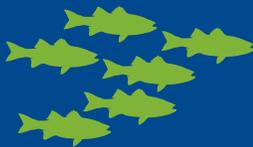
Prepare

102 educators trained
5,453 students engaged
16,331 student contact hours

Improve



1,530 volunteer hours
12,519 community members
engaged



“The Mission-Aransas NERR is a product of hard work and determination by dedicated teachers, researchers, staff, and volunteers. It is a great asset for Texas and the nation!”

Lynn Amos

“ Thank you Mission-Aransas Reserve for the increased awareness, in-depth knowledge, and wide ranging educational programs that demonstrate the importance of our bays and estuaries. Our entire community directly benefits from your presence and support.”

C.J. Wax, mayor, City of Rockport, Texas

Restoring a Reserve

Nothing warms the heart more than feeling loved. Mission-Aransas Reserve definitely felt the love as hundreds of community members, past program participants and visitors, and NERRS/NERRA staff volunteered and continue to volunteer their expertise, time and labor to clean-up and rebuild in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. Volunteers worked tirelessly to reconstruct the Amos Rehabilitation Center, and clean-up the Wetland Education Center, Dunescape and Waterwise Garden trails. The restorative work not only improved Reserve structures and assets, it restored the hearts of the Reserve staff, faculty, volunteers, and students. The Mission-Aransas Reserve are valuable assets to the local communities that rely on tourism to survive. These restoration efforts will help restore the tourism activities to communities devastated by Hurricane Harvey.

Women in Marine Science

Each year the Mission-Aransas welcomes nearly 100 middle school students through its doors to engage in STEM learning and career exploration. What's so special about these 100 students? They are all girls! Women in Marine Science participants interact with women researchers, graduate students, technicians, and staff as they rotate through hands-on experiments, activities and demonstrations. The day is all about empowering female students to recognize and value their STEM capabilities and to encourage them to consider a STEM career pathway as they advance on to high school, and beyond.



Mission-Aransas NERR 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



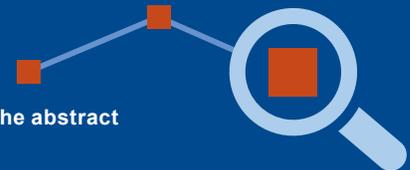
Aloha to our Hawai'i Reserve, designated in 2017!

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*