

Rookery Bay Research Reserve Education is Change on the Ground



2017

Connect



16,196 visitors to the Environmental Learning Center

1,138 ecotour guests



Prepare

23 teachers trained

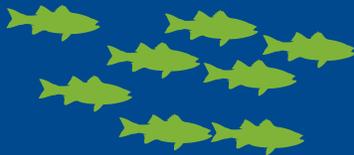
2,733 students engaged

8,969 student contact hours

Improve



224 volunteers donated 14,736 hours



"What a fun educational experience! Our family spent the whole morning exploring the touch tank, learning about local water life. We went on a beautiful hike on the trails! Our kiddos, ages 2, 4 and 6, all had a blast! We would highly recommend."

Becki Bowen
ELC visitor

"Being here was the experience of a lifetime, and my favorite part was the plankton lab and drawing them. Best day ever!"

Logan
4th grade student

Estuary Encounter

Rookery Bay Research Reserve has unveiled a new, 180-gallon marine life exhibit at the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center. The new "Estuary Encounter" exhibit houses more than a dozen species of marine animals for guests of all ages to discover during regular visiting hours. View-through windows along the side add opportunities to observe the diversity of species in the exhibit from different angles. In addition to self-guided engagement with these animals, docent-led programs are scheduled throughout the day.

SURVIVORS Outdoor Classroom

In 2017, reserve educators hosted their "Rookery Bay SURVIVORS" seventh grade field trip program in a new outdoor classroom at the Rookery Bay Field Station on Shell Island Road. Renovated with funds raised during the 2017 Batfish Bash for the Bay, the classroom has significantly enhanced the seventh grade and high school education programs by providing an outdoor space for a variety of immersive, hands-on field trips with focus on the marine environment.

Volunteers Help After Hurricane

Hurricane Irma blew trash and debris into much of the coastal environment near Naples and Marco Island. Rookery Bay Research Reserve teamed up with Red Bull to host a Henderson Creek Cleanup on Saturday, Nov. 18. Nearly 100 stand-up paddlers, kayakers and water enthusiasts from all over Florida joined forces to help remove and load more than sixty yards of debris into dumpsters, restoring the creek's pristine beauty and making the shoreline safer for wildlife.

Florida's Rookery Bay Research 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. Learn more at RookeryBay.org.



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



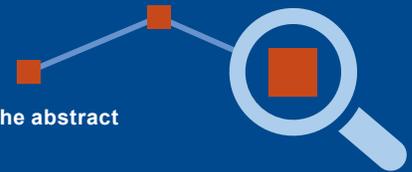
Aloha to our Hawai'i Reserve, designated in 2017!

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*