

ACE Basin Research Reserve Education is Change on the Ground



2017

Connect



94,641 acres

2,942 people participated in public programs



Prepare

137 teachers trained

4,478 students engaged

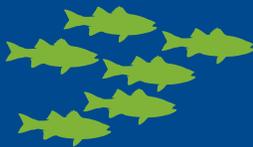
13,207 student contact hours

Improve



204 students restored

2,590 Spartina seedlings planted



"During lectures, I find that not only I but also my students are referring back to our boat ride and relating the lecture information to what we learned on the boat! Thank you for that!" Marine Science Teacher

"This is the coolest thing I've ever done! Man, I wanna be a scientist!" 5th grade student

Experiential Estuary Exploration Sets Students on a Path to Success

This program helps create scientifically literate citizens and stewards of our natural resources. Students explore the ACE Basin for hands-on experiences to increase their awareness and appreciation of estuaries and expose them to careers in marine science. Engaging students in field studies where they work as scientists collecting data to solve real-world problems fosters a sense of ownership of their local resources and encourages future conservation action. The Reserve staff strive to help students and teachers understand the link between their behaviors, environmental health, and quality of life in our coastal communities to create a healthy estuary where nature and coastal communities thrive.

Training teachers to capture the science of the salt marsh

Coastal communities in South Carolina are becoming more vulnerable to natural disasters and long-term adverse environmental changes. Resilient communities depend upon a scientifically informed and engaged public. The need to create a scientifically literate society is reflected in the new South Carolina Academic Standards and Performance Indicators for Science. During this three-day workshop, teachers explored the ACE Basin, monitored water quality with researchers, and practiced analyzing data. These teachers collected lesson plans to bring real world data to their students.

Sowing the Seeds of Estuary Health

Students in the Seeds to Shoreline Program are going to see the fruits (or seeds rather) of their labor. All school year they grow Spartina alterniflora plants from seed. In the spring, these students plant them in the pluff mud to reduce erosion and create a living shoreline. A healthy marsh prevents erosion, improves water quality, and creates habitat. This project is conducted along the entire coast of South Carolina by SC Sea Grant, the ACE Basin NERR, SCDNR's SCORE program, and Clemson Extension's Carolina Clear program.

ACE Basin 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



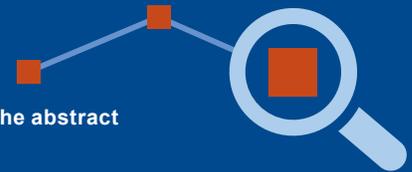
Aloha to our Hawai'i Reserve, designated in 2017!

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*