Change on the Ground in 2019

Connects
People to Estuaries

1 million+ ACRES of natural classrooms & living laboratories with
29 INTERPRETIVE CENTERS

29 RESEARCH RESERVES

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

613,152 VISITORS learn about estuaries through Research Reserve outreach & education

Prepares
the Next Generation

93,916 STUDENTS take learning out of the abstract & into the outdoors

4,784 TEACHERS are trained in the estuary & supported in the classroom

ESTUARY SCIENCE - LOCAL DATA - LAB WORK - FIELD INVESTIGATION

SKILLS BUILT

Observation
Asking research questions
Problem solving
Data driven decision making

Improves
the Environment

13,704 CITIZENS are trained & inspired to protect their coasts & estuaries

29 RESEARCH RESERVE EDUCATORS lead programs that foster coastal stewardship in communities in 23 states

coast.noaa.gov/estuaries

Volunteer Actions

Protect wildlife
Monitor water quality
Plant native species
Clean up the coasts

Creating value through education
25,934 volunteer hours = $640,310*

*Value of a volunteer hour is calculated at $24.69 based on data from the Independent Sector.
CBNERR Education Programs Succeed During Covid-19

With many other environmental education organizations moving online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia (CBNERRVA) education team followed suit, developing two new online programs. “Story Time” is geared towards younger audiences and includes a reading of a marine related children’s book followed by a demonstration, activity, or craft for participants to do at home. “What’s Going On At CBNERR” shares resources and informational videos on current projects conducted by our research and stewardship departments. While informal environmental education values hands-on learning, CBNERR has been successful at continuing to connect with our audiences through virtual programming.

VASEA Brings Marine Science to Classrooms

The Virginia Scientists and Educators Alliance, a collaboration between the CBNERRVA and the VIMS Marine Advisory Program, translates graduate student research into digestible lesson plans for middle and high school students. Graduate students are trained on science communication, including how to write lesson plans, and then Virginia teachers are able to access these lesson plans, containing real data graphs and research topics, for their classrooms. The VASEA lesson plans have been downloaded over 2,100 times in nearly 100 countries.

Hollings Scholar Ties Education to Research

CBNERR has created a lesson plan and an Esri Story Map to teach students about marshes and thin-layer placement restoration techniques. The Story Map is a digital tool where students explore videos and images to analyze CBNERR marsh experiment plots. Using this tool, students graph different treatments, determining which could be used as restoration techniques to combat sea level rise in marshes. These resources were developed by Stephanie Letourneau, a NOAA Hollings Intern, under the direction of CBNERR education and stewardship staff in conjunction with an experiment funded through the National Estuarine Research Reserve System Science Collaborative.

"Thank you for the opportunity to see and learn about this watershed so that I can use this information to teach about our area watershed."

Dawn Williams
TOTE Teacher

Rhonda Taylor
VASEA Lesson Plan Expo Attendee