

# GTM Research Reserve Education is Change on the Ground



2022

## Connect



76,000+ acres of coastal lands  
4,148 visitors to the GTM Center



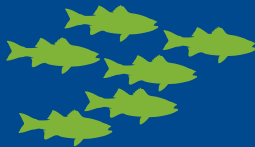
## Prepare

805 students engaged  
1,610 student contact hours

## Improve



3,188+ citizen connections  
through public outreach  
785 volunteer hours



### GTM for All Initiative Vision:

Promote and sustain diverse community attendance, increasing the awareness of the importance of natural and cultural diversity, further showing the potential for positive interaction and community contribution to conservation efforts.

## Increasing Accessibility at the Estuary

The estuary is a beautiful place, full of biodiversity. For many, the estuary is part of daily life and one in which all of the senses can enjoy. There are familiar salt marsh smells, background sounds of birds and water splashing, picturesque sunny days, and warm breezes. For those who have grown up around an estuary, its value can be easily seen.

However, how do you explain the importance of an estuary to someone who has not experienced it before? Bring them to the estuary to experience it for themselves!

In 2022, GTM Research Reserve expanded its GTM for All initiative, which seeks to provide access to the estuary for students who may otherwise miss out on such wonderful places. Throughout the year programs were provided for participants from communities that had limited access to estuarine science programs. Events included an Estuary Day at GTM, an overnight summer camp for urban core students, and monthly programs for verbal and non-verbal individuals on the autism spectrum.

These events made a positive impact, introduced the importance of coastal conservation, and expanded the possibilities of community partnerships.

Florida's GTM Research Reserve is one of 30 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 2022

### Connects

People to Estuaries

**1 million+  
ACRES**

of natural classrooms & living laboratories with



**26 INTERPRETIVE  
CENTERS**



*Hello to the Connecticut Reserve, designated in 2022!*



**296,131 VISITORS**

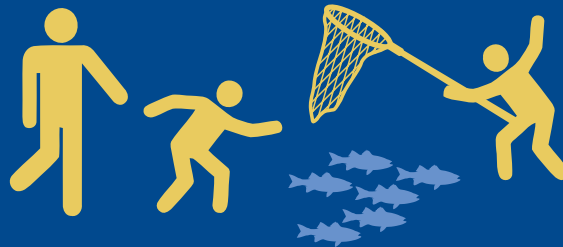
learn about estuaries through Research Reserve outreach & education

### Prepares

the Next Generation

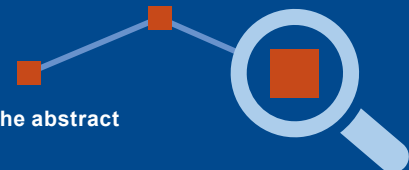
**4,347 TEACHERS**

are trained in the estuary & supported in the classroom



**54,773 STUDENTS**

take learning out of the abstract & into the outdoors



#### SKILLS BUILT

- ✓ Observation
- ✓ Asking research questions
- ✓ Problem solving
- ✓ Data driven decision making

ESTUARY SCIENCE

LOCAL DATA

LAB WORK

FIELD INVESTIGATION

### Improves

the Environment

**10,570 CITIZENS**

are trained & inspired to protect their coasts & estuaries



#### VOLUNTEER ACTIONS

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

**30 RESEARCH RESERVE EDUCATORS**

lead programs that foster coastal stewardship in communities in 25 states



Creating value through education  
37,371 volunteer hours = \$1,119,261\*