

Grand Bay Research Reserve Education is Change on the Ground



2022

Connect



361 students
763 student contact hours
2,368 people through public outreach



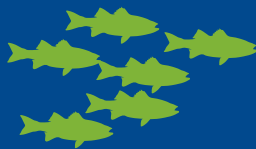
Prepare

59 teachers trained
337 teacher contact hours

Improve



177 education volunteer hours
6,783 lbs of trash removed from reserve



Making CHANGES

Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) is home to ecosystems that undergo constant change due to selective pressures, requiring continuous application of management, monitoring, and restoration. This presents a perfect opportunity to educate high school students about ecological processes and applicable restoration practices. Grand Bay NERR was awarded a National Academy of Sciences Capacity Building grant for science education, for a program entitled "Conceptualizing Human Alterations and Natural Growth in Estuaries and Savannas" (CHANGES). Our scientists and educators collaborated with local teachers to develop scientifically accurate, high quality lesson plans, and programming aligned with state and national science education standards. This hands-on education program took place in local classrooms and included two field days at Grand Bay NERR. During the program, we saw 250 students for 3,924.5 student contact hours and 18 teachers and teaching assistants for 227.5 teacher contact hours. Since the CHANGES program, we've adapted and incorporated lessons and activities for students as young as 5th graders in our K-12 On the Road Program, working with over 200 more students.

Celebrate the Gulf

Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival was first established in 1991 to teach residents and visitors about the importance of the Gulf of Mexico. The festival is held the first Saturday in April in Pass Christian, MS, and is free for the community. Our 30+ exhibitors all bring different activities for families to learn about everything from our upland habitats and wildlife to the recreational opportunities and commercial services that the Gulf of Mexico provides. Exhibitors include state and federal agencies, non-profits, universities, and industrial partners. Visitors can stroll through our Student Art Exhibition to see local children's artwork, or talk to our Student Science Showcase winners and learn about their endeavors as student scientists working on projects in the community. Visitors can meet the winning artist of the annual poster contest and leave with a signed print. Families also enjoy our live animal shows, a dress-up photo booth, and hand-done family portraits by professional caricature artists. In 2022, more than 5,800 people came to celebrate our Gulf!

Grand Bay 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.



Grand Bay
National Estuarine
Research Reserve



ENHANCE • PROTECT • CONSERVE

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

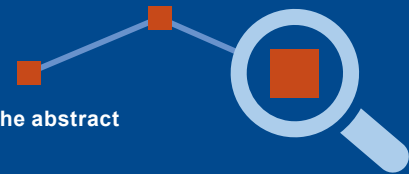
learn about estuaries through Research Reserve outreach & education

Prepares

the Next Generation

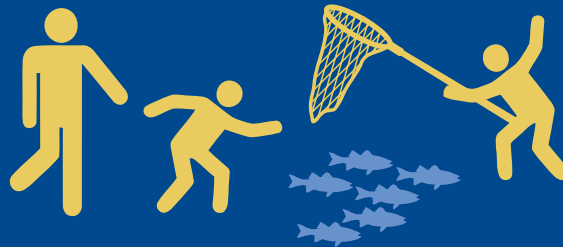
54,773 STUDENTS

take learning out of the abstract & into the outdoors



4,347 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

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*