

South Slough Research Reserve

Education is Change on the Ground



2022

Connect



112 programs

1,930 participants

2,825 hours



Prepare

46 teachers trained

2,038 students engaged

4,680 student contact hours

Improve



3,654 hours of intern service

1,211 volunteer hours



"It's wonderful to see these students open up in the small group. One student hardly ever raises her hand or speaks up in class, now here she is answering your questions and running around with the other kids."

"My guys had a really great time today ... and I learned about a really great mushrooming spot. Feel free to reach out to me for your next project we'd love to put our hands up the next time."

6th Grade Teacher
Millicoma School

Joseph
USCG, Trail Steward

After-school Explorers

South Slough Reserve redesigned the Estuary Explorers after-school program with the help of an AmeriCorps member, local teachers and four high school interns. The program launched at the Millicoma School, which has a natural area with hiking trails adjacent to the Coos estuary. Sixty students in grades three through six participated in a four-week program after school to extend learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM). Classroom teachers helped to identify students who would benefit most from this experience. Each week the students explored a new habitat type around the estuary. The program wrapped up with a "Families in the Field" hike through the Reserve, where students had the opportunity to invite their family and share what they learned.

Four high school interns helped to plan and run the after school programs. They were paid through a partnership with the Oregon Coast STEM Hub and gained career and leadership experience.



Community Engagement in Reserve Action

Community science and stewardship programs build strong connections with community members through environmental actions. In 2022 projects regularly engaged the public in Reserve work.

- Community scientists sampled 39 locations for a project mapping the distributions of Pacific and Western Brook Lampreys using Environmental DNA (eDNA).
- Second Saturday Stewards involved community members in 577 hours of action toward stewardship issues, including invasive species removal and native willow planting.
- The Trail Stewards trains volunteers who regularly walk the trail system to help care for the trails, increasing investment and appreciation for recreation activities.

Oregon's South Slough is one of 30 sites in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. Each site is a state and 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

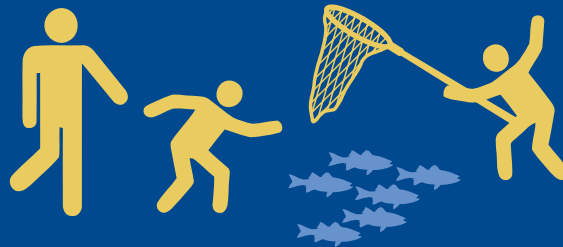
learn about estuaries through Research Reserve outreach & education

Prepares

the Next Generation

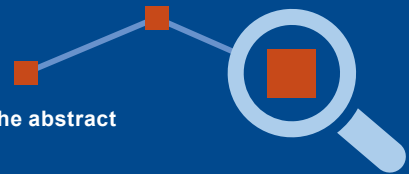
4,347 TEACHERS

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*