National Estuarine Research Reserve Education

**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

**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

**Improves**
the Environment

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

**SKILLS BUILT**
- Observation
- Asking research questions
- Problem solving
- Data driven decision making

**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.

cost.noaa.gov/estuaries
Citizen science monitors water quality

The 2019 Puerto Rico Water Quality Monitoring Day was celebrated on April 06th, 2019. Our Education Coordinator and System Wide Monitoring Program technician coordinated the participation of over 150 volunteers through the south coast of the Island. This year the San Juan Bay Estuary Program designated Jobos Bay as a demonstrative site in which new and interested volunteers could visit our facilities and be part of a demonstration of water quality monitoring. Leaders, and their group of volunteers, from community organizations, schools, universities and NGO’s took water quality data from rivers, creeks, water reservoirs, lakes and the Caribbean Sea.

Fourth graders protect endangered species

Jobos Bay Reserve Education Program collaborated with Las Mareas Bilingual School to develop their Project Based Learning project. Our Education Program visited the school and walked with the fourth grade students and teachers to the site they plan to turn into a community park with signs about the endangered West Indian manatee. Students and teachers scouted possible areas to plant red mangrove seedlings for a restoration project. The students presented their project to the faculty, parents and community by creating a mockup of the passive park and facilitating a presentation about the ecology of the West Indian manatee.

Boy Scouts celebrate their Day Camp at Jobos Bay Reserve

As part of our continued compromise as sponsor house of the BSA Troop 2815, on May 18th, 2019 Jobos Bay Reserve supported them in their celebration of the 2019 Caribbean District Day Camp. The theme for the camp was “Under the Sea”. Visitors learned about Jobos Bay estuary ecosystems, oceanography, water quality research, marine fauna and endemic birds. As part of the provided activities, visitors planted endemic and native trees.

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