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

ALASKA PUERTO RICO HAWAII

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

Connects

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

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
Mission-Aransas Research Reserve
Education is Change on the Ground

2011-2019

Connect
186,189 acres of coastal estuary habitats
68,500 visitors to reserve
Wetland Education Center & Marine Science
Education Center in Port Aransas
Bay Education Center in Rockport

Prepare
940 educators trained
54,725 students engaged
80,000+ student contact hours

Improve
275 education volunteers
100,000+ community members engaged

"Thank you for the opportunity to take part in the TOTE Workshop. In the past five years I have done a lot of PD, but this one was beyond them all. It was a blast, I learned so much!"
Earl Warren HS Teacher, 2019

Totally TOTES

There’s no better place to learn about estuary ecosystems and estuary-based research than in an actual estuary! Since 2014 the Mission-Aransas NERR has engaged over 120 teachers through its Teachers On The Estuary (TOTE) Workshop program, and in turn these teachers have shared their newly gained expertise with approximately 12,000 students. Each TOTE Workshop is unique in theme, but they all share these three essential qualities—authentic learning experiences, connections to research and field-based exploration. Mission-Aransas NERR educators are looking forward to summer 2020, where they will welcome a new group of teachers to the TOTE experience.

Coming Back Stronger

Starting fresh, and building for the future is what we have been working on for the past two years as we recover from Hurricane Harvey. Our Wetland Education Center trail system has been expanded, our Estuary Explorium has new exhibit components and graphics, the Bay Education Center is back open and welcoming visitors and students, and we are looking forward to all new exhibits and interpretive experiences in both our Patton Marine Science Education Center and the Bay Education Center in the near future. Onsite programs are increasing and we have expanded offerings to reach out into our local schools and learning centers.