

Narragansett Bay Research Reserve

Education is Change on the Ground



2022

Connect



4,453 acres of upland and nearshore habitat
23 miles of shoreline



Prepare

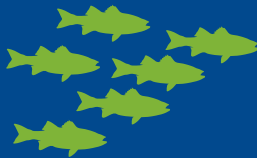
2,557 student contact hours
82 student programs

Improve



500+ invasive trees removed
1,000+ pounds of marine debris removed

"These trips provided our Littles with new opportunities and experiences while exploring the diversity of nature and wildlife. It has been an amazing experience, and an honor being able to witness our Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island mission in action!"



"We had an amazing time today at Prudence Island! Thank you so much for the opportunity. My Little is feeling excited to return and inspired about some new possibilities for her future."

Big Sister Nikki
Big Brother Big Sisters Rhode Island

Nelitza Gonzalez
Program Partnership & Engagement Coordinator,
Big Brothers Big Sisters Rhode Island

A 'Big' Island Adventure

The Reserve began a new partnership in 2022 with Big Brothers Big Sisters Rhode Island. The goal was to bring 'Big' and 'Little' matches to the Reserve for a day of exploring and hands-on science. Over the course of five programs, 23 matches had an amazing experience that included activities such as seal watching, birding, hiking, seine netting, salt marsh exploration and plankton races. Survey results included:

- 100% of those matched would return for another program
- 100% of 'littles' want to try more outdoor adventures
- 90% of 'littles' reported feeling more comfortable in nature after exploring the island (the remaining 10% were already comfy)
- The words most commonly used to describe the day were: fun, awesome, happy, adventure and nice



Student Stewards to the Rescue!

Over the course of 2022, a group of homeschooled students took on the monumental task of stewarding a .5 acre plot of land overrun with thorns and invasive plants. With the help of the Reserve's Stewardship Coordinator, they cleared and clipped their way to a mosaic habitat dominated by cedar, bayberry, blueberry and switchgrass. They will monitor the land for wildlife and continue to clear and clip as needed!



Narragansett 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.



Narragansett Bay Research Reserve



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**

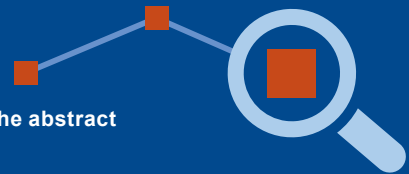
learn about estuaries through Research Reserve outreach & education

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*