



# SCHOOL DAYS

A recap of the 2016-2017 SoundWaters School Year Programs

July 2017



“I believe that there is a subtle magnetism in Nature which will direct us aright. “ - *Thoreau*

## Making a Difference for Students and the Sound

At SoundWaters, we have two seasons: the school year and summertime. This newsletter is all about school days.

From September to June we welcomed over 32,000 students from 46 communities aboard the Schooner *SoundWaters* and at our two Coastal Education sites.

We collaborate with schools up and down Long Island Sound, from Oyster Bay to Old Saybrook — from Larchmont to Litchfield.

Students learn and they make a difference: their daily actions ultimately impact the health of our Sound.

Turn the page to see the impact on our students, on science and on stewardship.

32,348  
STUDENTS



146  
SCHOOLS



47%

SCHOLARSHIP



46  
TOWNS



# “Give a Future for Future Generations”



Preschoolers discover a diamondback terrapin.



Students sample and study plankton aboard ship.



Afterschool sailors display teamwork... and joy.



Young scientists prepare to discover what lives in a Long Island Sound estuary.

***“SoundWaters impacted me as a child. I remember the spider crabs they brought to my third-grade classroom. I remember walking to the SoundWaters education center and looking at the small aquarium. I remember learning why it’s important to protect Long Island Sound and keep it clean. I gained so much more than just knowledge from SoundWaters, I learned what it felt like to fall in love with something and want it to be protected, to be valued like I valued it. ... If more students feel a stronger connection with nature at a young age, they will be more willing to protect it when they’re older. It’s the small, local connections that students make that will drive their appreciation for the natural world.”***

Emma Janson SoundWaters Intern 2015  
The Advocate May 19, 2017

# Stewardship, Science, Scholarship

Students engage at SoundWaters by getting into the environment. To learn about the water, you get into the water. To learn about animals, you go where they live.

SoundWaters programs give kids authentic, hands-on experience, unmatched by any textbook or smartboard. Students will draw upon what they've learned to make decisions as they grow older. When they learn to enjoy and respect Long Island Sound as kids, they will continue to do so as adults. Three of our school year programs present great examples:

## **Science Stars: All Girls, All Science, All Week**

Over 120 Stamford school girls joined SoundWaters during April school vacation to explore and pursue their interests and ignite a passion for science. On full scholarship, these young female scientists spent a week in the water, on the shore and in the lab.

*"My daughter's interest in science and the importance of protecting the environment and sea life improved tremendously."*

Science Stars Parent



## **Science on the Sound**

There is something magical about studying Long Island Sound from the deck of a sailing ship as 4,357 students did on the Schooner *SoundWaters*, immersed in the environment, having fun, learning and making memories. Students study navigation, raise the sails and analyze the animals and water they sample from the ship.

*"The experience aboard the Soundwaters Schooner is like no other... it enriches our student's lives and inspires them to be more active participants in taking care of their seashore community. This hands-on learning adventure is exceptional."*

Bridgeport Public Schools Teacher

## **Explorers**

Over 6,500 elementary and middle school students from all over Connecticut became *Explorers*: studying Long Island Sound animals and water in their classrooms and on the shore. They experienced first-hand the rich and fragile biodiversity of Long Island Sound.

*"The students were actively engaged and couldn't stop talking about the animals they got to meet. One of my students looked for a book about horseshoe crabs when we went to the library the following week."*

Norwalk Third Grade Teacher



# 4 Great Ways to Explore the Sound this Summer



## HarborFest - August 26

Let's go to the harbor! Free admission, fun activities for all, and of course, the Cardboard Kayak Race for the Mayor's Trophy! Finish the day with a fantastic fireworks show over Stamford Harbor. Don't miss it.

Learn more: [soundwatersharborfest.org](http://soundwatersharborfest.org)

## Public Sails aboard the Schooner *SoundWaters*

Enjoy the excitement and wonder of Long Island Sound aboard our 80' Schooner.

Learn more: [soundwaters.org/sails](http://soundwaters.org/sails)



## Kayak & Paddle Board Rentals at Harbor Point

Have some fun on the water and gain a greater appreciation of Long Island Sound.

Learn more: [soundwaters.org/rentals](http://soundwaters.org/rentals)

## Youth Programs at SoundWaters

Youth programs at Cove Island and Stamford Harbor for children in grades 1-9.

Learn more: [soundwaters.org](http://soundwaters.org)



Learn more about all of our programs  
at [soundwaters.org](http://soundwaters.org)

