

SUMMER DAYS



SUMMER @ SOUNDWATERS 2021



COMMUNITY CALLED SOUNDWATERS DELIVERED



Last year was tough for students. They were in school, then out of school and then back in school. They shared few group activities, which led to limited socialization and an increase in anxiety. Despite the valiant efforts of teachers and staff, the learning conditions were less than ideal. After such a difficult year, students needed a summer that gave them both a gulp of fresh air and a launch ahead. They needed to explore, learn and grow in the endless joy of Long Island Sound to get them pointed back in a positive direction. They needed a SoundWaters Summer.

To meet this unprecedented community need, we maximized every asset possible to increase our capacity to bring that unique mix of SoundWaters joy and challenge to as many students as possible. And with great people, hard work and your support, we delivered our largest summer ever.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

RESPONDING WITH JOY

Summer at SoundWaters is always fast-paced and exciting, filled with new experiences and friends. But never have sailing, science and coastal exploration meant more to young children and their parents than this summer. Camp SoundWaters registration filled earlier than ever before and when Stamford Public Schools asked for more, SoundWaters responded. We created two new camps to provide outdoor adventures and fun to many more children in need following a school year of isolation and anxiety.

A JOYFUL SOUNDWATERS SUMMER

- 774 children
- 32,740 camper days
- 144 received full scholarships



“ [My son] had an awesome experience with you and enjoyed each moment. I thank each of you with all my heart for everything you have done.”

- Summer Camp Parent

MIDDLE SCHOOL

LAUNCHING WITH CONFIDENCE



“Florencia had such an amazing time and loved Young Mariners. We will definitely be coming back next year. Thank you once again for all your help.”

- Young Mariners Parent

Young Mariners is designed to help students through their critical middle school years. All of our students missed time in the classroom this year. They needed academic enrichment and social-emotional engagement. This high-impact program, with equal focus on math, science and life skills, launched middle schoolers into the current school year with confidence and positive momentum.

YOUNG MARINERS SNAPSHOT:

- 50 middle school students
- 1,250 camper days
- 4 Stamford Public Schools teachers
- 6 counselors and interns
- 5 sailing instructors
- 26 sailboats
- 84% received full scholarships

HIGH SCHOOL

BRIDGING THE OPPORTUNITY GAP



“Over eight days we worked on the trash skimmer, we found over 200 bottle caps and 600 pieces of Styrofoam. It was scary how much plastic and pollution there is in Long Island Sound.”
- Lila, SRI student

HIGH-LEVEL RESEARCH

Following a year of COVID-restricted learning with little or no lab work, SoundWaters Research Intensive (SRI) gave students the opportunity to gain college-level research experience along the coastline and aboard the SoundWaters research vessel, and Schooner *SoundWaters*. Other summer research opportunities are plentiful, but not always accessible financially. In only its second summer, SRI is open to all high school students with a passion for science regardless of their ability to pay, opening doors and young minds to entirely new college and career options.

A HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER AT SOUNDWATERS

- 13 students engaged in high-level research
- 45 counselors, CITs and interns gaining job skills

THEIR FIRST JOB

Do you remember your first summer job? After this summer, dozens of high school students will remember SoundWaters. We employed high school students as sailing instructors, camp counselors and interns and counselors-in-training (CITs), challenging them with responsibility, accountability, and leadership.



“The expert in anything was once a beginner.”
- Unknown

OUR COMMUNITY IS STRONGER WHEN WE ARE **CONNECTED TO AND** **LEARNING FROM LONG ISLAND SOUND**

PADDLING ACROSS **STAMFORD**

A record 130 paddlers responded to the call for the 5th Annual SoundWaters Flotilla, paddling from Stamford and Darien beaches to Stamford Harbor and raising \$60,000 to fund Long Island Sound research, education and stewardship.



TOGETHER AT **THE HARBOR**



HarborFest returned in August to the delight of thousands of visitors – young and old, from all corners of the community – who celebrated our thriving waterfront with food, music, education and of course, the hilarious Aquarion Cardboard Kayak Race.

CLEANING THE SOUND...TOGETHER

In a very successful debut, SoundWaters teamed up with Stamford-based Building One Community (B1C.org) on the new Marine Debris Kayak Program to remove floating debris from Stamford Harbor and introduce our newest residents to environmental stewardship. This great program was funded by the Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund.

- 367 paddlers, aged 5 to 55
- 25 weekend days
- 277 pounds of trash collected
- \$0 cost to participants



ANCHORING STAMFORD HARBOR



Opening in June 2022, the Cohen SoundWaters Harbor Center will bring a first class educational facility to Stamford Harbor. The new building will include:

- A fully-equipped lab for high school research
- A workshop for maritime job skills training
- Large classrooms and ample meeting space for academic and sail training and public gathering
- A safe, working waterfront providing 12-month access to Long Island Sound