SCHOOL DAYS

A RECAP OF OUR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAMS

Thousands of students explored, studied and excelled at SoundWaters this past school year.

Deeper Learning

It's a recipe that works: Put waders on a student and send her into the water with a seine net and her eyes light up. **This is new. This is fun. This is powerful.**

His first time in a sailboat? Challenging, maybe even a little scary, but he's smiling and you can see the hint of a new love affair with Long Island Sound. **This is powerful.**

That scary-looking horseshoe crab or adorable terrapin turtle? They're not just pretty faces; they're teaching students so much about our past and our future. **This is learning.**

During School Days at SoundWaters, students focus on the why? The learning is deeper, which makes it memorable, which makes it powerful.

Terrapins help students understand human impact.

Equipping The Next Generation For Their Future

Climate change is *the* challenge of our time. Our changing climate will ultimately influence every aspect of life on earth. SoundWaters has been teaching climate science – the underlying science of climate change – to students for three decades.

We help students understand climate science deeply so their generation is prepared to confront and blunt the impact of climate change in their lifetime.

> *Environmental science has become climate science: understanding our environment, understanding rates of change, impact, action, and more.*
> - Leigh Shemitz, SoundWaters President

Animals collected into a seine net provide data for population studies.

Intimidating at first, the amazing horseshoe crab often makes the strongest impression on young students.

When **elementary school** students meet a horseshoe crab for the first time, they are learning how a 450 million-year-old species adapts to its changing environment in order to survive. Talk to 8-year-olds about the complex subject of climate change and you'll get blank stares, but first introduce them to the animals who live in Long Island Sound who will be affected by climate change and you'll get their attention.

After-school throughout the fall and spring, **middle schoolers** experience the thrill of piloting a sailboat for the first time and they quickly understand how much we benefit from a beautiful and healthy Long Island Sound.

Sailing makes after-school learning fun.

High school students are working on the research vessel 12 months a year.

High school students are on the SoundWaters research vessel every week throughout the year testing Long Island Sound water and conducting animal population studies. They are contributing data to the study of warming waters and increasing acidity.

> *Climate change really scared me, but it's also the reason I'm so passionate about environmental science today. Because I want to be part of the answer.*
> - Owen, High School Student

Confidence Building

Harbor Center Update

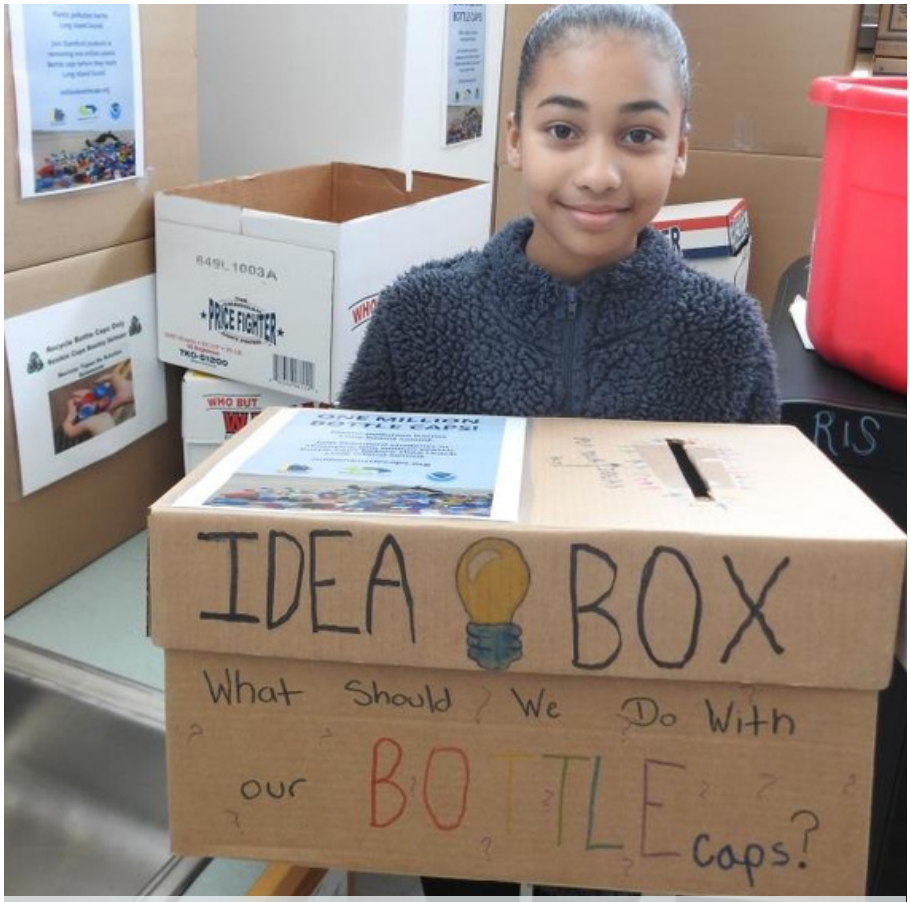
When the Cohen SoundWaters Harbor Center opens in the fall, SoundWaters will be operating in three locations uniquely well-suited to teaching climate science: the Schooner *SoundWaters*, the Coastal Education Center at Cove Island, and the new Harbor Center on Stamford Harbor. These resources will enable us to teach more students in more creative ways, get more kids into sailboats and connect more people to Long Island Sound. The future of our planet depends on what students learn today. **This is deeper learning.**

Almost here: The Cohen SoundWaters Harbor Center will open this fall.

Turning Learning Into Action

Keeping Plastic Out Of Long Island Sound

When you turn thousands of middle school students loose on a problem, watch out! Three years ago with a federal NOAA grant, SoundWaters challenged Stamford middle schoolers to collect one million plastic bottle caps to prevent them from ever reaching Long Island Sound. With support from their teachers and schools across Connecticut and beyond, the students succeeded wildly, collecting over 2.5 million caps over three (pandemic-impacted) school years. Their plastic was used ("upcycled") to create useful new products for the community.



The BIG Question.

The Deeper Learning

Amidst a crisis as huge as plastic pollution, students learned that they can use their voices to create a very big and positive impact on a seemingly intractable problem. They learned their actions matter and that agency is empowering... and inspiring.

Students collected, sorted and counted over four tons of bottle caps!

It makes me want to keep on collecting more and more trash because the one million bottle caps is just the first impact on the world we can have.
- Emilia, 6th Grade Student

What Would **YOU** Do With 1 Million Bottle Caps?

Watch a fascinating video to learn what students did with their bottle caps.

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