



# SUMMER DAYS

A RECAP OF SUMMER 2023 @ SOUNDWATERS



## A Great Summer is Confidence Building

What makes a great summer?

At SoundWaters, we start with three basic ingredients:

- Motivated students
- Well-rigged boats
- Passionate staff

Simple ingredients, but when we mix them just right, we get a **SoundWaters summer**: Students learning, growing and building momentum that launches them into the coming school year. Their fuel? **Confidence**.

Read about our Summer Days - our first in the new Cohen SoundWaters Harbor Center - to see what a great summer looks like... to see what **confidence** looks like.



Students are on the water everyday in a SoundWaters summer.



# Confidence

Ask parents what character trait they want most for their child and **confidence** will be at the top of the list. It certainly was when we asked parents:

*How do you think your child's experience at SoundWaters this summer will help them in the upcoming school year?*

*"I think my sailor will have the **confidence** to assert herself in class."*



Communication and teamwork are keys to success with a three-person crew.

*"Great **confidence** and sense of responsibility after sailing a big boat."*



Some students engage with the Sound more easily through art, so art was added to the summer curriculum.

*"His **confidence** grew as he learned new skills and saw himself becoming more capable."*

## Building Skills Builds Confidence

High schoolers join SoundWaters Research Intensive to build science skills for college and career. So what is a great summer for our 34 students? Here is what they said as they prepared to return to school this fall:

Q: Has SRI improved my ability to handle complex data?

78%

**YES!**

Q: Will studying advanced science this summer benefit me in school?

74%

**YES!**



Students collecting water samples to conduct plankton population studies.

# Scale Matters:

## The More People Connected to the Sound, the Better

This summer - through camps, education programs, sunset sails, paddle sports rentals, coastal cleanups, and special events - **SoundWaters connected thousands of students and adults to Long Island Sound.** They studied, enjoyed, and cleaned the Sound.

**Why does this matter?** Because our community is stronger when we are ALL connected to and learning from Long Island Sound.

2,705

Children and adults sailed on the Schooner SoundWaters



1,102

Paddlers explored the coastline on kayaks and paddleboards



34

High school students conducted research on Long Island Sound



581

Children sailed and learned at Camp SoundWaters and Young Mariners



*"It gave my child more **confidence** and helped them calm down in stressful situations."*



Many thanks to Crane Co., one of many corporate volunteer groups who collected over 200 lbs. of trash from the water and land.



Middle schoolers conducting their first field study on the shore of Stamford Harbor.

## Remember Your First Job?

Summers at SoundWaters are big, busy and non-stop so we need help. This past summer, between camp counselors, sailing instructors, Schooner crew, science and art instructors, and dock hands, we added 79 staff members, giving many young people their first summer job building responsibility, accountability and yes, **confidence**. We couldn't have a great SoundWaters summer without them.



Just some of our 2023 summer staff.



# Sound Skills for a Brighter Future: An Exciting Update

We are delighted to report that, after four months of training, two June graduates from our Harbor Corps job training program have both started full-time employment at Hinckley Yacht Services on Stamford Harbor. Bryson Thomas is working in marine electronics and David Luftig in marine mechanics. The next Harbor Corps class started in mid-September and will graduate in December.

*"Harbor Corps prepared me for Hinckley by giving me valuable experience working in boatyards and helping me present my resume."*

-David Luftig, Harbor Corps graduate



David Luftig (L) and Bryson Thomas flank Peter Manion, General Manager of Hinckley Yacht services.



The SoundWaters Flotilla has raised over \$380,000 in seven years, supporting research, education, and stewardship.

## Paddling Across Stamford in the Flotilla

They came (135 strong), they paddled (4 miles), and they raised (close to \$60,000!). It just doesn't get better than paddling in gorgeous weather, flat water, and an incoming tide, except maybe the great post-paddle lunch.

Will 2024 will be your year? Mark July 20 to paddle in your first Flotilla!

## The Annual Meeting



Scan the QR code to join us on November 15 at the Cohen SoundWaters Harbor Center for food, drink, and a recap of one of the most exciting years in SoundWaters history.



Two new sailors in complete control.