

What is a summer at SoundWaters?





SUMMER DAYS

A RECAP OF SUMMER 2025 @ SOUNDWATERS



Summer is the time to...

We could complete this sentence, but we'd rather you hear it from some of the 967 students who spent their summer with SoundWaters. They learned to sail, studied salt marshes, made new friends, visited a lighthouse, and discovered skills and confidence they didn't know they had. A lot happens during Summer Days at SoundWaters so we think the best people to complete the sentence are the students themselves. **Summer is the time to...**



...build confidence

I appreciated how you encouraged us to think critically, ask questions, and approach research with both curiosity and rigor. From fieldwork techniques to data analysis, every part of the program helped me grow as a student and future marine scientist. I feel more confident in pursuing marine science as a field of study because of this experience.

-Kira, SoundWaters Research Intensive student

Give students the tools and freedom to explore, and they thrive; college-level work from high school students.

...take responsibility

Thank you for giving me so many opportunities to grow in my leadership! I am so glad to have joined the SoundWaters team this summer.

-Sierra, Camp SoundWaters counselor



SoundWaters staff triples in the summer, giving over 50 young people their first summer job experience.



Sailing builds responsibility, accountability and confidence.

...challenge yourself

One of the biggest challenges George and Alex are always working to overcome is listening and following multi-step directions. Learning to sail was an incredible motivation for them to rise to the occasion to really listen, put different steps together, think fast and then act.

-Young Mariners parent



Rigging their own boat is an important goal for young sailors.

...try something new

Beau has really flourished at camp this year — I've seen him grow in confidence, curiosity, and joy through his experiences with you. It has been so meaningful to watch him come home with stories, skills, and a real sense of accomplishment.

-Camp SoundWaters parent

...give back

My experience at the Flotilla was uplifting and rewarding. Being out on the water with so many people who care about Long Island Sound reminded me how powerful community action can be. I joined because I want to do my part to protect the Sound — it's such a special place, and I believe we all have a role in keeping it clean and thriving.

-Michele Freshwater, Flotilla paddler



Michele and Guy Freshwater joined 140 other paddlers to raise over \$50,000 to support Long Island Sound education.



Harbor Corps members build technical and workplace skills to prepare for jobs in the marine trades.

...take your next step

Chris came to Harbor Corps looking for more. He had been working part-time at a warehouse in Danbury. He completed four months with Harbor Corps in June and started U.S. Coast Guard Basic Training in August.