



SCHOOL DAYS

A RECAP OF THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR AT SOUNDWATERS



“Every single student...”

You often read how MANY students come to SoundWaters during School Days and that can obscure where the real impact is felt: by every single student. You see it in their faces when they try new things and you hear it in their words and the words of their parents and teachers.

So beyond the numbers, what is the impact of a school trip to SoundWaters?
Let's hear from those who feel it.



When 28,726 students came to SoundWaters this school year, they didn't just watch, they did stuff. They all wore waders in the water, they canoed, they collected and tested water samples and held animals. These experiences for every student put the power into experiential learning.

My 6th grade students got to step outside their ordinary and try something new. Their excitement was palpable from the moment we got off the bus. Many were hesitant to try canoeing or seining due to their comfort around water, but because of your staff, every single student had an amazing experience.

-Jess Fisher, Teacher, Achievement First Bridgeport Academy

82 elementary and middle school girls voluntarily and enthusiastically spent their April vacation week doing fun science together at Science Stars. All girls. All science. All week.

My daughter is very grateful you extended Science Stars for 6th graders this year. She said she wanted to pretend she was still in 5th grade in order to attend. Thank you for extending the grades!

-Science Stars Parent



High school students have few opportunities to work with their hands and build things in school, so we created a high school version of Harbor Corps for students to receive instruction in shop skills. Each student gained valuable, potentially career-defining skills as they took projects, such as small boatbuilding, from concept to completion.

They love to come here [High School Harbor Corps]. They feel very comfortable and more confident.

-Parent of two High School Harbor Corps students





27 high school students came to SoundWaters Research Intensive (SRI) after-school this school year. Doing advanced marine science helped shape their college and potential career choices.

The best part was being able to ask questions and find answers through real experiments. From testing water quality to studying animal populations, I felt like I was truly making contributions to the field of marine science.

-Theo, SRI student, attending the University of Colorado in the fall to study environmental science

Harbor Corps will enroll as many as 30 young people a year. They learn and train as a team, but each receives personal instruction to help them reach their next step: a good job in the marine industry where they can thrive.

We're not learning from a book at Harbor Corps and I'm not sitting in a classroom. This is how I learn the best.

-Mateo Smith Stein, Harbor Corps graduate



It's not always about students during our School Days. 859 members of the community and local companies contributed heavily to 36 SoundWaters coastal clean-up efforts, removing over 2.5 tons of trash, taking personal action to protect Long Island Sound.

Our team had a great time at the cleanup; it was a lovely way to get out of the office and feel fulfilled while doing it. I'm so happy we were able to make even a slight difference and help our community in that way!

-Sydney Eastman, ONTHEMARC Events, Corporate volunteer participant



It's Like Paddling Downhill Saturday, July 11

Join the largest paddling event on the Sound. Hundreds of paddlers will paddle across Stamford and raise the money that helps SoundWaters teach all students, regardless of their ability to pay. Don't own a kayak or paddle board? No worries, you can rent one for the day. July 11 will be your best day on Long Island Sound.





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Trawling and examining organisms while out on the Long Island Sound sparks a love of learning that can't be fostered within the walls of a traditional classroom. The partnership with SoundWaters expands our students' horizons and helps them see themselves as the future scientists, environmental stewards and community change-makers that they can become.

- Serena Barton, 8th Grade Teacher

