

# NOAA: OFFICE OF EDUCATION

## IMPACTS AT A GLANCE



### WHAT IS THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION?

NOAA's Office of Education translates and disseminates NOAA's science into actionable information that educators, students, and the public can use. The office runs the Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship and the Jose E. Serrano Educational Partnership Program, which help NOAA prepare and retain the next generation of U.S. earth system experts.

### NOAA CITIZEN SCIENCE

NOAA's Office of Education supports citizen science by helping to manage a Citizen Science Community of Practice, coordinating a catalog of projects, and representing the agency in broader efforts. In citizen science, the public participates voluntarily in the scientific process to address real-world problems. This may include forming research questions, conducting scientific experiments, collecting and analyzing data, interpreting results, making new discoveries, developing technologies and applications, and solving complex problems.

### AMERICAN STRENGTH AND PROSPERITY DEPENDS ON NOAA'S OFFICE OF EDUCATION



**594** postsecondary students were trained through NOAA Office of Education higher education programs in 2024



**2,310** alumni from more than **350** colleges and universities participated in the Hollings Scholarship from 2005-2024



**4,661** students were supported by the Jose E. Serrano Educational Partnership Program from 2001-2024



More than **500** datasets are in the Science On a Sphere catalog, **48** of which are in real-time



**36,300** individuals participated in education projects supported by the Environmental Literacy Program in 2024



AMERICANS ARE MORE SECURE, COMPETITIVE, AND PROSPEROUS BECAUSE OF REASONABLE AND MEANINGFUL INVESTMENTS IN FEDERAL EARTH SCIENCE AND WEATHER INTELLIGENCE.

## SCIENCE ON A SPHERE (SOS)

Science on a Sphere (SOS) is a physical display system for global datasets, where digital data are projected on a large suspended sphere to illustrate Earth system concepts. There are 195 SOS exhibits in 27 countries and 34 states, visited by an estimated 60 million people each year. The online companion to SOS, the SOS Explorer® (SOSx), displays SOS datasets on a flat screen. SOS and SOSx enable more people to see and interact with NOAA's historical and real-time weather intelligence data, enabling more people to learn how the ocean, atmosphere, and earth systems interconnect. Viewers can visualize storm paths, El Nino patterns, deep ocean currents, global sea surface temperature and sea ice extent, and atmospheric carbon dioxide levels.



## NOAA EDUCATION PORTAL

NOAA's Education Portal provides a central gateway that helps users discover and use all the office's resources and products. It offers datasets that are ready for educators to use in the classroom, lesson plans, multimedia products, and tools, functioning as a conduit to equip learners in formal and informal education settings (like museums) with the best and latest information from NOAA.



## BAY WATERSHED EDUCATION AND TRAINING (B-WET)

Established in 2002 and continuously funded since, B-WET supports locally relevant, experiential learning with the purpose of increasing understanding of how the quality of a watershed affects the lives of the people who live in it. Through FY2025, B-WET funded 120 institutions in 23 states and D.C. Approximately 4,300 educators received professional development to enhance their skills and confidence in using STEM and environmental education, and an estimated 53,200 students participated in multi-stage, inquiry-based activities that include learning both in the classroom and outdoors.



## PARTNERSHIPS FOR COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

Partnerships for Collaborative Learning directly funds weather intelligence and resilience education initiatives across the United States via competitive grants to nonprofits, universities, and school systems. These grants support programs that educate the public and build communities' resilience to extreme weather and other hazards.



In 2024, more than 3,000 K-12 students participated in formal education projects supported by Partnerships for Collaborative Learning, and more than 35,000 people of all ages participated in informal education projects. Partnerships for Collaborative Learning grants also support programs that translate NOAA's scientific products into place-based, solutions-oriented education. For example, the program's support in 2021 enabled the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies to begin a project partnering with tribal organizations to "establish sustainable long-term environmental monitoring programs and educational opportunities that involve youth in reducing risks from marine toxins and ensuring continued access to traditional foods and safe drinking water." The program also operates an online Resilience Hub, which shares the products created by Partnerships for Collaborative Learning grantees such as best practices assessments, education curricula, and resilience-building tools for communities.

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?



Reach out to  
[info@usacompetes.org](mailto:info@usacompetes.org)



Learn more on our website:  
[usacompetes.org](http://usacompetes.org)

