

2023 Education Department Highlights

<https://stroudcenter.org/education>

<https://wikiwatershed.org>

<https://leafpacknetwork.org/>



PROGRAMMATIC SUCCESSES

- Total number of direct contacts: **10,725**
 - **6,213** (58 %) youth and **1,047** adults (10 %) in K-12 Student Programs
 - **85** (<1 %) in College Level Programs
 - **1357** (13 %) in Training & Professional Development Events
 - **1264** (11 %) at Community Engagement Events
 - **759** (7 %) at Conference & Event Presentations; **18** presentations
- **218,622+** indirect education impacts in 2023 through our digital resources
- **213** programs: **93** onsite, **59** off-site, **10** canoeing, **5** angling, **30** virtual/online, and **16** with mobile lab
- **538** program contact days, **68** different schools and organizations
- Participants from **14** U.S. states (CO, DE, GA, MD, NC, NJ, NY, OH, OR, PA, TX, VA, VT, WV) and **2** countries (Slovakia and Peru)
- **52** training and professional development workshops
- **7** businesses donated through the PA EITC tax credit program to support public school education
- **2, 539** subscribers to our e-news which was sent **8** times in 2023
- **1,623** subscribers to our e-news for Leaf Pack Network
- **5** full-time staff and **16** part-time educators serving our audiences

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Received **26** new grants, awards, and donations supporting education projects

- Conducted research and formulated recommendations for the future of watershed education programs by the National Park Service National Capital Region parks. The research included an online survey of teachers and school leaders, follow-up interviews of school staff, site capacity data collection during NPS site visits, interviews of NPS program staff, reviews of environmental education research literature and NPS staffing capacities. Recommendations were created for a future program package of educator professional development and deeper MWEЕ programming with high needs schools.
- In a contract with School District of Philadelphia for After School Enrichment programs, we provided professional development opportunities, model lessons, and instructional supplies for 2 yearlong cohorts of 16 total schools leading before and after-school environmental and outdoor education clubs. With subcontract partners we have delivered 224 lessons!
- Co-led NOAA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education and Training grant project to build environmental literacy and Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences capacity across Pennsylvania. This included the creation of a multi-agency and organization steering committee, six regional ELit Hubs, communications strategies, and offering numerous MWEЕ professional development events.
- Created Macroinvertebrate Discovery Tanks to increase engagement of visitors with macros and a macroinvertebrate discovery tank and animal care user guide (DEP Environmental Education grant).
- Began research and multi-year initiative to make our inner loop of education trails accessible to all visitors (E. Kneale Dockstader and National Park Foundation).
- Partnering with more schools in the design, creation, and use of outdoor learning spaces. Celebrated new outdoor learning spaces with 5 schools and begin working with 3 new schools in the next cohort (DEP Environmental Education grant). Created online resources available on pagatewaytogreen.org.



EDUCATION PROGRAM FEEDBACK

It was invaluable to work with the Stroud Center on not just the planning of the outdoor learning spaces but also on the outdoor lessons. The biggest change is that it feels welcoming to human inhabitants while still honoring plants and animals"

J. Braunstein, Teacher – Greenwood Elementary

I love Stroud education events! Please keep up the amazing work and keep the educational opportunities coming. Thank you for all you do!

- Workshop participant

As always, our Stroud field experience was an amazing experience for the students. The instructors are outstanding, and everything was well organized from arrival to departure. Thank you!

M. Schneider, Teacher – Henderson H.S.



Outdoor learning puts the learner and the natural world at the center. People care for and protect what they value, and if we want our children to become good stewards of the natural world around them, we have to help them experience the outdoors and discover nature for themselves. Dr. Steve Kerlin, Director of Education



AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- 2021 American Association for the Advancement of Science, Prize for Excellence in Hands-on Science Books finalist for *Creek Critters*.
- The Pennsylvania Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) Ambassador Training Program was honored with the outstanding environmental education award in 2020 by the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators
- WikiWatershed® Toolkit receive the Sustainable Business Network (SBN) of Greater Philadelphia's Excellence in Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Award for Technological Innovation in 2019 and was also awarded the 2017 Governor's Award for Excellence by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.
- The education department was recognized as the Outstanding Environmental Education Program by the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators in 2015.

The education department includes 21 educators and celebrates 30 years delivering watershed education!