

2024 Education Department Highlights

<https://stroudcenter.org/education>

<https://wikiwatershed.org>

<https://leafpacknetwork.org/>



PROGRAMMATIC SUCCESSES

- Total number of direct contacts: **12,017**
 - **8,365** (70 %) youth and **875** adults (7%) in K-12 Student Programs
 - **77** (<1 %) in College Level Programs
 - **712** (6%) in Training & Professional Development Events
 - **1189** (10 %) at Community Engagement Events
 - **799** (7 %) at Conference & Event Presentations; **16** presentations
- **159,000+** indirect education impacts in 2024 through our digital resources
- **202** programs: **70** onsite, **90** off-site, **12** canoeing, **6** angling, **11** virtual/online, and **13** with mobile lab
- **323** program contact days, **62** different schools and organizations
- Participants from **8** U.S. states (DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA, SC, VA, WV) and Costa Rica
- **31** training and professional development workshops
- **8** businesses donated through the PA EITC tax credit program to support public school education
- **2,743** subscribers to our e-news which was sent **11** times in 2024
- **1,749** subscribers to our e-news for Leaf Pack Network
- **5** full-time staff and **15** part-time educators serving our audiences

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Received **21** new grants, awards, and donations supporting education projects

- Partnering with more schools in the design, creation, and use of outdoor learning spaces. Celebrated new outdoor learning spaces with 3 schools and began working with 5 new schools in the next cohort (DEP Environmental Education grant).
- Delivered watershed educational K-12 field study experiences to parochial schools within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia (Connelly Foundation grant).
- First Costa Rica study abroad: Students from Virginia Wesleyan University joined the Stroud Center for one week in the Área de Conservación Guanacaste region of Costa Rica for an immersive study-away experience.
- Served as co-leader of 3rd NOAA-funded PA environmental literacy (ELit) and Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) capacity grant. Expanded professional development and support for PA schools and environmental education providers to implement the new PA Science, Technology, Engineering, Environmental Literacy, and Sustainability (STEELS) K-12 Academic Standards and MWEEs.
- Environmental Literacy and MWEE Capacity Building in Delaware School Districts. This NOAA-funded project strengthens state and school district capacity to integrate ELit and MWEEs into learning for Delaware students. Collaborators created a Delaware MWEE Facilitator Guide and worked directly with Caesar Rodney and Appoquinimink school districts and Sussex Montessori Charter School in Delaware to expand environmental education and develop ELit plans that serve as models for other districts.
- Through funding from the National Park Foundation, we were able to provide 3 sessions of watershed programming for 5th-grade students at seven schools in the Red Clay Consolidated School District in Delaware. Teachers received professional development and co-designed the lessons and utilized our new watershed models. A 2nd grant is expanding updating and expanding this programming to all 15 Red Clay Consolidated School District elementary schools.
- Completed a research project for the National Park Service National Capital Region making recommendations for the future of their watershed education programming.
- Improved accessibility of trails around the center which are most used for education programming for visitors with mobility challenges thanks to a grant from the Dockstader Foundation.

EDUCATION PROGRAM FEEDBACK

It was a wonderful hands-on learning experience and we learned so much about our watershed and stream health! A teacher could talk about this in class all day long, but seeing it LIVE is priceless! We loved this trip.

Teacher – St. Patrick's Malvern

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 20 educators and celebrates 30 years delivering watershed education!