



"I know of no other environmental or educational institution that matches Clearwater's expertise for teaching about Hudson River ecology." - Walter Cronkite

About Clearwater

CLEARWATER WAS FOUNDED in 1966 by folksinger Pete Seeger and a group of citizens who wanted to take action to stop the pollution that was destroying the Hudson. They "built a boat to save a river", launching the 106 ft. sloop *Clearwater* in May of 1969, a replica of vessels that sailed the Hudson in the 18th and 19th centuries. Clearwater became part of a grassroots effort to restore the Hudson, pass strong clean water laws, and change basic attitudes about our relationship with the environment.

Today, Clearwater uses the boat as the centerpiece of an award-winning education program designed to introduce students to the rich heritage of "America's first river", with the goal of creating the next generation of environmental leaders.

"My students raved about the trip. It really made an impression on them that lasted far beyond the three hours onboard."

- Cheryl Simmen, PS5 teacher

Philosophy of Education

CLEARWATER BELIEVES that experiential programs outside the classroom can dramatically enhance and support learning in school. We use our boats and the river as interactive learning tools to investigate the ecology and history of the Hudson Valley. Students come to see the Hudson as part of a dynamic watershed system, one easily impacted by human activities. Clearwater helps students to put the importance of healthy streams and rivers into the context of their lives.

Clearwater offers learning experiences for K-adult, creating a "pipeline" of educational opportunities.



Clearwater As A Sailing Classroom

4th Grade – Adult (mid Apr. - Oct.)

Clearwater uses the sloop Clearwater and schooner Mystic Whaler as platforms for exploring the ecology and history of the Hudson River. Our classic 3-hour sail makes students part of the program as they raise sail, navigate the boat, catch and identify river life, perform water quality tests, and sing traditional songs. This award-winning program can accommodate up to fifty passengers per sail and can be adapted to meet the specific needs of the group.



Extending the Impact

A day trip to the river can be made part of a larger unit of study. Here is how Clearwater can help students get the most from a Hudson River experience.



HRECOS

The sloop is part of a water quality-monitoring network called “HRECOS” (Hudson River Environmental Conditions Observing System). During a sail, the boat is recording data (oxygen, temperature, salinity, and turbidity) that is being uploaded to a website. After they return to their classroom, students can track online where the boat sailed while they were onboard, see what the water conditions were, and compare the data to other stations located along the river. Lesson plans and a tutorial are available.

CLEARWATER “STREAMS”

An in-class visit by a Clearwater educator can help students prepare for and get the most out of a field trip. Streams are a program package offering that combines a sail on the Clearwater or a Tideline shore program with a classroom visit, Hudson River resource materials, and achievement patches for the students, along with a subscription to our Topsail Times classroom newsletter. The Hudson River themes you can choose from are: arts/literature, history/time, and science/inquiry. It’s a great way to get the most out of a trip to the river!

CLEARWATER DOCKSIDE

For those groups who are either too young (K-3) or too large (over 50) to experience a sail, a dockside program may be an option. Dockside includes many of the same education elements found in the sail program, but the boat remains at the dock. Availability is limited. Contact our sail program manager for details (sail@clearwater.org).

“The coolest thing I’ve ever done is sail for four weeks going up and down the Hudson River, teaching and learning about the ecology of the Hudson while sailing with some of my best friends.”
— a former apprentice



Programs on Land

CLASSROOM VISITS

Grade Levels K-12 (Year Round)

Bring the Hudson River to your school! Our classroom curriculum provides a distinct Clearwater experience, bringing aquatic specimens, river songs, and environmental decision-making activities to your students. As part of the Clearwater Stream package, classroom visits can be bundled into a sail on the sloop or a trip the shore.

"We love the philosophy that people will conserve what they love. Programs like this give kids a chance to really connect with the Hudson River and nature in general."

- Denise Powers, Kingston district, 4th grade

TIDELINE PROGRAM

Grade Levels K-12 (Mar. - Nov.)

Clearwater's Tideline Program is a hands-on field trip offered on the banks of the Hudson. Participants form a lasting bond with our magnificent river by catching fish, examining invertebrates, exploring the tidal estuary, and singing river songs. Teachers can also choose from a variety of electives to enhance their classroom curriculum. Through inquiry-based learning students connect the ecology, beauty, and environmental challenges to their own lives.

"Healthy kids and a healthy environment go hand-in-hand. Clearwater encourages kids to turn off their cell phones, get outside, and connect with nature."

*-David Fenner, MD
Pediatrician & Volunteer*

POWER OF SONG

Grade Levels K-12
and College
(Year Round)

The Power of Song is an interactive learning experience that excites students about socially-conscious and environmental music and empowers them to use music as a tool to address issues of concern to them. Clearwater offers several options for this musical program – assemblies, songwriting workshops, and apprenticeships.

"This machine surrounds hate and forces it to surrender"

- Pete Seeger's banjo

