



Hudson River Sloop Clearwater 2017 Annual Program Report

Mission - Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc. is a member-supported nonprofit whose mission is to preserve and protect the Hudson River.

Financials – The most recent audit and 990 statements are posted on the website.

The Sailing Classroom – This education program explores the river through all the major disciplines – history, science, math, English language arts and music. Nearly 300 sails a year accommodate up to 50 passengers each, serving students ages 8-20 and their teachers, as well as the public.



Back in 2016, Clearwater introduced a new theme to our current curriculum with a module on microplastics pollution and in 2017 we were able to evaluate the program. A survey of over 100 middle and elementary school students showed a clear impact of the microplastics program. Among all students tested with pre- and post-surveys, the percent of students who could identify plastics and microplastics as a major source of pollution increased from 31% to 80% (middle) and 14% to 64% (elementary.)

Tideline Discovery Program - Students and community members participate in hands-on ecology lessons on the banks of the Hudson River by engaging in science, music, and art activities.



In 2017, schools came from far and wide - Manhattan to Columbia County, Orange County to Connecticut. A record 2,600 students participated in Tideline programs in 2017, up from 1,500 in 2016. Over half came from Ulster and Dutchess counties and this year's groups were primarily from elementary and middle schools.



In-Class Workshops - Clearwater educators visit classrooms to facilitate interactive educational programs with live specimens and river songs. Students learn about ecology, Hudson Valley history, and music of the River.

In-class programs have reached over 2,000 students, up from 1,900 last year. A total of 86 workshops were delivered to groups from all over Hudson River Valley counties. Over half of students were from New York City schools in four boroughs – Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx – and Westchester. About a quarter came from Dutchess and Ulster counties. The majority were elementary schools.

Professional Development Programs for Educators – In 2017, we conducted three free programs for 65 educators to demonstrate the microplastics program and curriculum. A survey of evaluation results for educators showed a clear impact of the program. Teachers increased their knowledge about environmental issues in general and plastics pollution in particular as well as their comfort level teaching the subject of plastics pollution. When asked to rate how true a statement was for them, 58% said “Yes” or “Absolutely” in response to the statement “I am knowledgeable about environmental issues” in the pre-test and 84% in the post. When rating “I know about plastics pollution”, 54% said yes/absolutely in the pre and 96% in the post. “I am comfortable teaching about plastics pollution” went from 38% to 84% and “I know how I can personally help prevent pollution” went from 42% to 92%. The professional development programs clearly had an impact on participating educators.



Youth Empowerment Programs - These free one-week on-board intensives take at-risk youth (one each for young men, young women and LGBTQ+Allies) on life-changing sailing and outdoor adventures. Youth ages 15 to 18 learn about sailing and the environment through hands-on activities aboard the sloop *Clearwater*.

Youth At the Helm (YATH) programs served 50 youth in 2017. We expect 100% of youth to complete Clearwater’s youth

development programs and we track demographic metrics to ensure we are reaching our target audience.

This year we instituted the first pre- and post-survey for the Youth at the Helm program to access changes that are correlated with the program. This year, 80-90% were youth of



color from low-income communities and 100% completed the program. Based on pre and post survey results, we are happy to report that 100% of participants:

- Had a positive outdoor experience;
- Had a positive experience with role models;
- Gained confidence;
- Gained leadership skills; and
- Feel they would recommend program to peers.

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