In 1966, folk singer Pete Seeger and a group of activists wanted to take action to stop the pollution that was destroying the Muhheakantuck (the indigenous Lenape name for the Hudson River). Three years later, the iconic sloop Clearwater was launched, with a mission to save the Hudson.

Over fifty years later, Clearwater is recognized for its unparalleled environmental education programs through which hundreds of thousands of students have investigated the ecology, history, and environmental challenges of the Hudson Valley. These award-winning programs, which dramatically enhance classroom learning, are all aligned to NYS Learning Standards and aim to create the next generation of environmental leaders.

In addition to education, Clearwater’s advocacy efforts continue today. Guided by a set of core environmental values, Clearwater works cooperatively with concerned citizens, elected officials, and state and federal regulatory agencies to find solutions that create healthy Hudson River ecosystems free of pollutants.

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

—Cheryl Simmon, PS5 teacher
The Sailing Classroom

On the Sloop: 4th Grade – Adult (mid Apr. – Oct.)
In this three-hour shipboard program, students participate in inquiry-based learning stations to examine Hudson River life, perform water quality tests, explore indigenous history, and help navigate the ship. Students also work together as a team to raise the sails, go fishing, and sing shanties.

Virtual Programs

On Virtual Meeting Platforms: 3rd Grade – Adult (Year-Round)
Join Clearwater educators virtually as we introduce the Hudson River estuary and its physical, social, and ecological characteristics. A Q&A with the crew about ship life and operations is a highlight of this program!

Specialized Study

Indigenous Peoples: 4th Grade – Adult (Year-Round)
This innovative program, which can be delivered as a stand-alone virtual program or as a module during Sailing Classroom and Tideline programs, deconstructs the traditional framing of this important topic, re-focusing the lens from the snapshot of European interaction with the Hudson Valley’s inhabitants to the perspective of Indigenous populations, past and present.

Climate Change: 4th-12th Grade (Mar.-Nov.)
Sailing Classroom and Tideline programs can be adapted to focus on climate change impacts in the Hudson Valley and solutions that empower students to enact change in their own areas of influence. The program includes a pre- and post-trip classroom experience to supplement the field experience.

Intern and Mentorship Opportunities

Youth Empowerment Programs: Ages 14-18 (Jul. or Aug.)
This three-day summer experience is perfect for teenagers looking to cultivate leadership and teamwork skills. Sailing aboard the sloop during the day and camping along the shores each night instills a sense of community among participants who leave the program with newfound knowledge, skills, and friendships.

Education Deckhand Internship: 18 Years of Age – Recent College Graduates (Mid Apr. – Oct.)
This two- to three- month internship is a full-time, paid sail training and environmental teaching position aboard the vessel. Interns assist the Onboard Educators in delivering Clearwater’s education programs while fulfilling shipboard duties from sailing and chores to ship maintenance.

Sloop Volunteer: 18 Years of Age and Older (Mid Apr. – Oct.)
Clearwater invites volunteers with a passion for teaching to join our crew and live onboard for a week! Volunteering is a great way to give back to the community while learning about the river and traditional sailing vessels. Youth volunteers (16+) are eligible for service learning hours.

Clearwater programs are eligible for funding assistance through many BOCES offices.

Questions? Contact our Program Director at educator@clearwater.org or visit our website at clearwater.org.

Tideline Program

On the Banks of the Hudson: K-12th Grade (Mar.-Nov.)
Through Clearwater’s Tideline Program, students evaluate the health of the river through firsthand interactions with the living environment as they catch and identify fish and invertebrates, connecting the ecology and environmental challenges of the river to their own lives. This program is operated at partnering riverfront parks.

In the Classroom: K-12th Grade (Year-Round)
Bring the Tideline program to your classroom or school grounds! Our classroom curriculum brings aquatic specimens, river songs, and environmental decision-making activities to your students. These programs can also supplement your Tideline or Sailing Classroom field experience.

For more information about our programs, donations, membership, and more, visit our website at clearwater.org.

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