

Attention homeschool families!

The Aquatic Resources Education Center in Smyrna, DE invites you to participate in the

Eco-Explorers Field Trip Program

during April and May, 2022

Over the past 23 years, nearly 60,000 fifth grade students have engaged in tasks that real scientists would perform, by participating in the Eco-Explorers Program at the ARE Center. During this program, students rotate through 6 eco-stations to investigate various components and connections in a tidal salt marsh ecosystem.

Students learn about important aspects of the tidal salt marsh eco-system including food webs, energy cycles, circulation of tides from Delaware Bay, wildlife habitats, and the role the salt marsh plays as the prime nursery for marine fish and shellfish.

Students net and identify macroinvertebrates and fish. They learn about the characteristics and structures that help these organisms thrive in the tidal salt marsh.



They conduct water testing on a sample from the tidal stream and explore areas of the salt marsh to identify signs left by animals that live there.

They identify salt marsh plants and learn about the vital role they play in reducing coastal flooding, reducing pollution, and recharging groundwater.

This field trip is free of charge.

For more information, or to register, email Mary Rivera at mary.rivera@delaware.gov

You can also visit our web page at:

dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/education-outreach/arec/eco-explorers/

The Aquatic Resources Education Center

2520 Lighthouse Road, Smyrna, DE 19977 302-735-8689



The **Aquatic Resources Education Center** is operated by the Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife through funding provided by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program. Our focus is wetlands, fishing and other aquatic education themes. Located in the Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, the facility features several ponds, a 940-foot tidal marsh boardwalk and various outer natural areas, offering a prime venue for exploring the Delaware Bay coastal ecosystem and the abundant wildlife it supports. The education building has several large aquariums and other educational displays.

For more information, visit dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/education-outreach/arec/

