

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



CENTER for
AQUATIC
SCIENCES
at Adventure Aquarium

Contents

1

Mission

2

Title

3

Highlights

4

By the Numbers

5

CAUSE in the Community

6

The Virtual World

7

On the Delaware

8

Brian DuVall, President & CEO

9

2022 and Beyond

10

Get Involved

11 - 12

Donors

13

Staff - Contact Us



We're on a mission.



The mission of the Center for Aquatic Sciences at Adventure Aquarium is Education and Youth Development through promoting the understanding, appreciation, and protection of aquatic life and habitats.





2021

Year in Review

2021 was a year of transformation for the Center.

The Center made bold steps into the evolving future in 2021, piloting new hybrid programming, deepening engagement with our community, and developing partnerships to expand our impact.

The Center's focus remains on providing engaging opportunities for students and families to connect with the aquatic ecosystem. We invite you to reflect on the work of 2021, and join us as we build our future.

Highlights



The Center participated in many community events this year, including the **Eagles Huddle Up for Autism** in April 2021. Center educators brought biofacts and live education animal ambassadors to greet participating families.



CAUSE Interns returned to **Corson's Inlet, NJ** (located along the Jersey shore, near Ocean City) to survey with seine nets. The Interns caught flounder, minnows, and hermit crabs.



At the **Cramer Hill Waterfront Park** grand opening, the Center offered TrailBlazers kayak trips and live animal ambassador presentations. Participants could vote for their favorite outdoor recreation activity and learn more about the local watershed.

By the Numbers

130



families

received STEAM Saturdays take home kits

417

kayakers

got out on the Delaware



86



virtual Outreaches

served by CAUSE Summer Camp

225

campers



on the Page Flippers Book Club reading list



3,321

pages

trash clean ups along the river

4



Be the first to hear Center news, get event information, and never miss a mood-boosting video of an animal ambassador!



Center for Aquatic Sciences

192 subscribers



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78 followers

Most Liked Picture 2021



Petty's Island clean up with CAUSE youth and American Water staff, 9/20/2021



CAUSE in the Community

The Center's CAUSE (Community And Urban Science Enrichment) program debuted **STEAM Saturdays** community events in 2021. STEAM Saturdays took place in Camden City green spaces, including Cooper's Poynt and Pyne Poynt parks, and at school events in nearby neighborhoods. CAUSE staff and students put together activity kits coordinated with each event's theme so families could continue their exploration of the topic together at home.

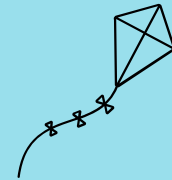
CAUSE Summer Camp also encouraged campers to explore their local parks by offering in-person field days on Thursdays during camp. Campers flew kites, tested the water quality in the Delaware River, and studied insects in parks around Camden.

CAUSE Interns provided activities and live animal demos for visitors at the opening of the beautiful new **Cramer Hill Waterfront Park** in November 2021.



STEAM SATURDAYS 2021

March
Air, Air, Everywhere!



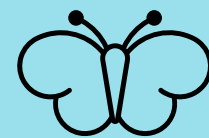
April
Things That Float



May
Mythical Creatures



June
Insects in the Garden



December
Let it Snow!



The Virtual World



in 2021

Outreach

Center Outreach programs continued to bring science to schools and libraries, no matter where they were conducting their learning.

Teen Marine Science Institute

TMSI offered unique, in-depth programming in person or online.

Camps

SeaCamp, Holiday Camp, and CAUSE Summer Camp held in-person, virtual, and mixed/hybrid camps for ages 4-15.



“

One thing I want people to know about kayaking here is that they have access to this river. I just wanted to tell all the Camden residents who happen to come across this river that...you could kayak here, you could fish here, you could definitely explore your options with this river.

”

-Jackie

CAUSE TrailBlazers Guide



ON THE DELAWARE

The TrailBlazers Community Kayak Program got Camden residents out on their river in 2021. Paddles were co-led by an experienced kayak safety guide and a CAUSE Intern TrailBlazer guide. TrailBlazers guides, bullhorn in hand, provided biological and historical context to each paddle.

A variety of paddles were offered in 2021 to accommodate all kinds of kayakers. Trips included family paddles, beginner and intermediate paddles, short, more casual paddle parties, and a sunset paddle. Over 230 kayakers enjoyed the Delaware and Cooper Rivers this year with the TrailBlazers. Watch the Center's social media for more paddling opportunities in 2022!



BRIAN DUVALL TO RETIRE AFTER OVER 30 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

Mr. DuVall has been with the Center, previously known as the New Jersey Academy for Aquatic Sciences, since the organization was founded in 1989. Mr. DuVall began his career in animal husbandry but felt called to lend his leadership and operations expertise to the fledgling Center, guiding the environmental science nonprofit through its formative years. Over the past 30 years, the Center has become a leader in education and youth development. Mr. DuVall's tenure as President and CEO of the Center has seen the organization grow into a local and regional leader in aquatic and environmental education with strong partnerships and collaborations in the city of Camden and surrounding areas.



In these Covid-challenged recent years, Mr. DuVall has moved the Center forward with his unwavering belief in the organization, its purpose, and its dedicated staff. Mr. DuVall's cultivation of partnerships across regional environmental nonprofits and championship of the need for locally-based watershed stewardship education in the community not only enabled the Center to endure through this troubling period, but also will guide its efforts for years to come.

“Mr. DuVall has led the Center and its staff to exceed all expectations, while staying true to its vision and mission. We look forward to having Mr. DuVall join the Board of Trustees and continue to lend his expertise to our organization.”

-Jennifer Miller, Chair of the Center's Board of Trustees

2022, AND BEYOND...

Youth in Education

CAUSE youth will have more opportunities to share their knowledge of aquatic and environmental science. Youth will join the Center's education staff in providing programming for scouts, afterschool activities, and care and enrichment for the Center's ambassador education animal collection.



Our Rivers

The Center will expand offerings along the Camden Waterfront Trails and in local parks and green spaces. The Community Kayak Program will get more paddlers out on the Delaware, offering a unique perspective on their city and its ecosystems.



Access to Science

Flexible, innovative community-centered programming will create opportunities for students and families in Camden to engage with environmental science exploration. Hybrid camp programming, events outdoors in local green spaces, and Virtually Camden content will keep STEM accessible through changing circumstances.



Get Involved



For volunteer opportunities
and college internships, visit:
aquaticsciences.org/get_involved/volunteer

Help us to inspire champions for the environment, build your resume, and make lifelong friends. Center volunteer opportunities include educational programs, summer and holiday camp, community events, and animal care and enrichment.

Thank You Donors!



United Way of
Greater Philadelphia
and Southern New Jersey



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PARTNERSHIP
DRIVEN BY PROGRESS | FOCUSED ON EQUITY



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