

## NY Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange: Building Coastal Literacy

To ensure the next generation of citizens is well-prepared to make sound decisions that consider and contribute to improving the health of New York's Great Lakes, New York Sea Grant and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation are partnering with educators in the state's Great Lakes watershed to develop an experiential environmental education program focusing on Great Lakes Literacy Principles and stewardship.

The program known as New York's Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange (NYGLEEE) includes a focus on water quality, natural resources and social impacts, and is designed to empower educators to encourage K-12 students to become stewards of local watersheds.

NYGLEEE strategies include expanding and improving on efforts to develop NY's Great Lakes education programming, as well as providing resources, e.g., issue-based learning opportunities, and curricula for Great Lakes and watershed-related hands-on classroom and field experiences.

### NYGLEEE Clearinghouse Resource Portal

New York Sea Grant has been developing a NY-GLLEE Clearinghouse using a website that will provide a portal through which users can access resources for schools and nature center programs that integrate Great Lakes Literacy Principles with classroom instruction and hands-on field experiences.

Twenty educators tested the website clearinghouse in 2016. Early 2017 work is adapting the site to match the suggestions and needs of the test group. The [www.nyseagrant.org/educationexchange](http://www.nyseagrant.org/educationexchange) site will launch in spring 2017.

Additionally as a result of this initiative, teachers will have access to 20 newly-created Great Lakes "Basin Bins" filled with books, posters, educational materials, curriculum ideas, preserved specimens, and sets of classroom-ready activities as a one-stop source for teaching about the Great Lakes. These Basin Bins will be distributed to teachers in school districts along the coastal counties of New York State in 2017.



#### NY's Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange: Home

This Web site provides resources for schools and nature center programs that integrate Great Lakes literacy and curriculum and related hands-on field experiences.



About NYGLEEE



Great Lakes Action Agenda



Great Lakes Curriculum



Model Educators Network



Aquatic Invasive Species



Issues and Resources



Organizations and Opportunities



Place-based Education

### 8 Great Lakes Literacy Principles include:

**# 3: The Great Lakes influence local and regional weather and climate.**

**# 5: The Great Lakes support a broad diversity of life and ecosystems.**

**# 8: The Great Lakes are socially, economically, and environmentally significant to the region, the nation, and the planet.**

### Partners:

- Center for Great Lakes Literacy
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Parks
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

### The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Healthy New York Coastal Ecosystems

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.

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