

A “Day in the Life” Student Experience Debuts in Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Watershed

“Day in the Life” programs exist throughout New York State, including in the Niagara River/Lake Erie, Genesee River, and Hudson River watershed regions. These programs provide hands-on opportunities for youth to develop a better understanding of environmental science and water quality during a one-day Student Summit event. Until 2022, students in the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River (LOSLR) areas were lacking this opportunity to connect with, and learn about, their local watershed.

To foster environmental literacy with students in the LOSLR region, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) collaborated with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and other partners to implement the debut of the Day in the Life of the Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Watershed program.

At a training workshop, NYSG and DEC staff provided four teachers and eight environmental educators with teaching resources and activities to prepare their classes for the 2022 Day in the Life Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River watershed Student Summits. Concurrent events were held on October 4, 2022, at four locations in the LOSLR watershed: Hamlin, Henderson, Mexico, and Webster. Middle school students engaged in learning about their watershed through classroom and field-based activities to increase student awareness around larger scientific monitoring and planning efforts in the Great Lakes, such as the Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative (CSMI) and Lakewide Action Management Plans (LAMPs). Three hundred and five students from four schools participated in localized environmental monitoring activities and data collection. In a post-workshop survey, teachers strongly agreed that they had increased their knowledge of Great Lakes educational resources opportunities, CSMI, and LAMPs, as well as gaining confidence in performing and demonstrating the environmental monitoring activities.



The Day in the Life Student Summit event in Mexico, NY engaged middle school students in water quality monitoring along Lake Ontario. Photo: Betsy Ukeritis/NYSDEC

Day in the Life of the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence Watershed:
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/education/125689.html>

Partners:

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
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The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development in NY.

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