



Education & Outreach Program

Field Trips

Our mission at Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation is to restore and preserve the Pontchartrain Basin for the benefit of this and future generations. To do this, we must educate the youth in the basin. Your group is invited to come to LPBF's New Canal Lighthouse Museum & Education Center to tour the museum and take part in presentations about basin-related issues. We can tailor the subjects to fit your needs and your students' grade level.

Guided Tour of the Museum (all grades): The tour of the museum begins on the west deck where groups will learn about Lake Pontchartrain and the New Basin Canal. They will also view the bell tower and have a chance to ring our fog bell (c. 1958). As they ascend the stairs, students will have a beautiful view of the lake, the Causeway bridge, and the seawall. As they enter the lighthouse museum, the students will move through the three halls: the History Hall, the Save Our Lake Hall, and the Save Our Coast Hall. Students will learn about the rich history of our lighthouse and the lakefront area, how LPBF helped to save Lake Pontchartrain, and our current struggle to save Louisiana's coastline.



A Day in the Life of a Keeper (K-5th): In this role play activity, students will learn about a typical day in the life of a light keeper. The students will use props and will discuss the duties of a light keeper. They will reenact a rescue by one of our five female keepers of the light.

Five Lives in the Light (designed for 5th-8th grade girls): The girls will perform a play about the five female keepers of New Canal Lighthouse and learn about the role of women as light keepers. Our five female light keepers tended the lighthouse for 85 years, from 1847 to 1932.



Story of the Lake (K-5th): The students will participate in a story about how our lake came to be very polluted and then became clean again thanks to LPBF and thousands of volunteers.

Watershed Model (5th-12th): A watershed is an area in which all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place; in our case, this place is Lake Pontchartrain. The students will create a model of our watershed and learn about how pollutants enter the lake through our activities on the land.



Water Quality (5th-12th): Monitoring water quality of Lake Pontchartrain and the rivers that drain into it is an important facet of what LPBF does. Students will learn how to test water quality by collecting samples from the lake and testing the following parameters: temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and salinity.

Save Our Coast (all grades): The students will learn about our Multiple Lines of Defense Strategy against hurricanes and storms. Each student will create a bead bracelet to represent each line of defense.



School of Marsh (5th-12th): LPBF has created a half-acre urban marsh at the mouth of Bayou St. John. Students can walk onto the marsh, test water quality, sample macroinvertebrate populations, and identify the plant and animal species that they observe.

Service Learning Day at Bayou St. John (6th-12th): The students will clean up litter at the urban marsh. You can meet at the New Canal Lighthouse to learn about the project and then travel to the marsh, which is approximately a mile down Lakeshore Drive. There, students will be given data cards and trash bags to do a litter cleanup. They will also learn about the bayou and its importance to the city of New Orleans. Afterwards, students can travel back to the lighthouse to discuss and debrief. Data cards will be turned in, and the data will be shared with the New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board to be used as needed.



When your activities are complete, you're invited to have a picnic on museum grounds and enjoy the beautiful view!

For more information on booking a field trip, download our Educator's Packet at www.saveourlake.org.