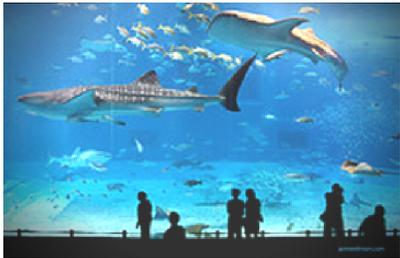


PLACE-BASED BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Every day, biological and environmental research and education programs take place at more than 1,100 sites around the nation. Whether at a field station, a natural science collection, or a zoo, aquarium, or botanic garden, place-based science provides insights into our nation's most pressing issues.



TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS

FIELD STATIONS

Research stations across the country further our understanding of local living and non-living resources, monitor long-term environmental changes, and develop remediation and restoration techniques for degraded ecosystems. Although many field stations are affiliated with universities, some are partnered with federal programs, such as the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Long-Term Ecological Research Network.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS

Natural science collections, consisting of plants, animals, rocks, soil, and tissue and cell cultures, are libraries of Earth's history. These irreplaceable resources inform our understanding of past and present life on earth and our response to important problems, such as conserving biological diversity, combating the spread of invasive species, and informing public health responses to emerging diseases.

ZOOS, AQUARIA, AND BOTANIC GARDENS

These institutions expose the public to the diversity of our natural world and, in many cases, conduct genetics and biological conservation research. Each year, education programs at zoos, aquaria, and botanic gardens educate over 50 million students and train thousands of teachers.

OUR NATION BENEFITS FROM PLACE-BASED SCIENCE

Place-based research institutions benefit local communities, states, and the nation. Research conducted at these facilities informs policymakers, creates jobs, and helps educate students and the public at large. The limited federal support for these institutions is spread across the budgets of many agencies, including NSF, the Departments of Agriculture, Energy, and Interior, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the National Institutes of Health.