

Are you a Homeschooling Student between 13 and 18 years of age?

Are you looking for a science project you can really sink your boots into?

Then we need YOU for the

Spartina Restoration Project

Background

Spartina alterniflora, also known as saltmarsh or smooth cord grass, makes up about 99% of the vegetation in the lower marsh where it is immersed in the daily high tides. In addition to being an important food source for geese and muskrats, *Spartina* holds onto silt and prevents the erosion of marsh soils. The roots provide support for fiddler crab burrows and gives ribbed mussels a place to attach in the soft marsh mud. Cordgrass also provides important cover for many types of birds and is an essential part of the habitat for many species of fish and shellfish that are harvested for our seafood.

Spartina Restoration Project Overview

- We are seeking student partners to grow *Spartina* and help The Wetlands Institute staff replant areas of the salt marsh impacted by the construction of the new walkway. Although most of the marsh vegetation is growing back very well, a few areas will benefit from the planting of native marsh vegetation in damaged areas.
- The Project allows students to have authentic experience not only in the process of growing and planting vegetation for the restoration effort, but to design their own experimental growing conditions for what *they* think would be best practices.
- Students will attend a workshop to learn more about *Spartina* and the Project requirements. They will participate in Periodic Check-Ins and on-site Planting Days, with Project support all along the way.

Spartina Restoration Project Training Workshop

Thursday February 4, 2016, 6PM at The Wetlands Institute

- ⇒ Background and resources
- ⇒ Project variables
- ⇒ Proposal & Hypothesis, Record keeping, Planting & Presentation
- ⇒ Distribute materials & seeds

Cost: \$5.00 per family



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For more information and to register for this workshop contact:

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