

OUR COASTLINE is in danger....

The restoration and preservation of Louisiana's vital wetlands requires an enduring commitment and a long term, collective, socially and economically sustainable approach.

Common Ground Relief is dedicated to cultivating the future leaders and environmental stewards of our coastal communities.



YOU can help.

The CGR Youth Environmental Education and Outreach Program is designed to build a new generation of citizens that have high levels of **environmental literacy, which includes:**

- *Scientific knowledge and skills
- *Strong sense of stewardship over the wetlands
- *Active engagement with wetlands restoration
 - *Tools and desire to be effective environmental advocates

Common Ground Relief's Environmental Programming combines:

- *Classroom learning
- *Hands-on experiential learning
 - *Lessons aligned with Louisiana Grade Level Expectations

For more information about our programs or to book a field trip, Call 504-442-2314

Email:

wetlands@commongroundrelief.org

Visit our website

www.commongroundrelief.org

CGR Youth Environmental Education and Outreach Program

A Project of Common Ground Relief



WETLANDS RESTORATION

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Who We Are

Common Ground Relief is a nonprofit organization, started in 2005, committed to the long-term sustainability of New Orleans.

What We Do

At Common Ground Relief, we work to create ecologically sustainable communities by protecting our existing wetlands from erosion and rebuilding vital wildlife habitat. We engage people, of all ages and backgrounds, in the planting of native trees and grasses in surrounding wetlands. We grow the plant materials used in our restoration projects at our state-licensed tree farm and marsh grass nursery located in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, LA.

Each year, nearly 1,500 K-12 students participate in our wetland planting projects. We provide educational programming for public, charter, parochial, and independent schools.



Coastal Wetlands Loss

Louisiana contains approximately 40% of the nation's coastal wetlands, but accounts for over 80% of the total national wetland loss. A land area equivalent to one football field becomes open water every 30 minutes due to erosion, subsidence, and sea level rise. Healthy swamps and marshes are essential for storm protection and are critical habitats for many fish and migratory bird species. An estimated two million residents live and work in Louisiana's coastal parishes. Continued loss of Louisiana's coastal wetlands will lead to dire ecological and economic consequences.



Wetlands Education

Common Ground Relief's wetlands education program will introduce students to the issues surrounding coastal wetlands loss as well as involve them in wetland restoration efforts. This hands-on science enrichment helps foster appreciation for and understanding of the importance of wetlands ecosystems. Our goal is to instill in students the knowledge that they can make a meaningful contribution to the conservation and restoration of Louisiana's wetlands.

Common Ground Relief offers a variety of lesson formats which can be booked individually or in combination. Common Ground Relief staff will work with the school to create a learning experience that fits the needs and abilities of the school, students and educators.

*In-School

Common Ground Relief experienced environmental educators will visit the classroom for an informal learning and sharing session. Students will learn about the history, function, and culture of the Gulf Coast wetlands. We will also discuss the dangers of coastal land loss and restoration strategies. This lesson is often combined with plant-based field trips.

*Nursery Field Trip

At our state-licensed wetland plant nursery, students will learn about the different wetland plants and their importance in habitat restoration while assisting with planting seeds, grass propagation, and tree repotting.

*Wetlands Planting Field Trip

Common Ground Relief provides field-based, hands-on experiences to youth during organized restoration projects. K-3 students will plant marsh grasses in designated wetland areas of local parks. Older students will travel to local swamps and marshes and plant trees or grasses as part of a larger restoration effort.