



Why take school outdoors?

"I loved picking up the trash because it helped the environment."

Howbert Elementary School 4th grader

Catamount Outdoor Schools at Howbert

Catamount Outdoor Schools' (COS) focus is to enhance student classroom learning and sense of ecological stewardship. We do this by teaching key concepts from the Colorado Department of Education Standards and Colorado Environmental Education Plan through outdoor education and adventure activities. COS programs are intended to be an enhancement to classroom learning, not a replacement. It's a collaborative effort between local school districts and Catamount Institute that inspires a sense of place and community in students with connections between classroom learning and real world applications. Catamount Outdoor Schools and Howbert ES are enjoying this partnership for our students!



Students will have the opportunity to participate in facilitated, age-appropriate, standards-based activities including:

- ▲ Plant Identification
- ▲ Ecosystems Studies
- ▲ Animal Life Cycles
- ▲ Maps and Compasses
- ▲ Fossil Digs
- ▲ Dissections
- ▲ Predator/Prey Relationships
- ▲ Natural Resource Management
- ▲ Soil and Erosion

The program also supports our collective efforts to build the classroom community through clear communication strategies and team building exercises.



Why Environmental Education?

Environmental education is a life-long learning process that increases an individual's awareness of, relationship with, and dependence on the environment and its systems. Because of the multiple way the environment intersects with personal and community lives, developing an environmentally literate population has the potential to dramatically improve the lives of all. Research indicates students engaged in environmental education experience numerous benefits including:

- Gets students outdoors and active within their learning.
- Offers an antidote to the plugged-in lives of today's generation.
- Improved Academic Achievement by improving students' performance by providing students with engaging lessons about the natural world.
- Critical and creative thinking skills are enhanced.
- Increased school attendance.
- Strengthened sense of empowerment to make a difference in their community.



Embedded Programming

The Catamount Outdoor Schools programming is embedded within our students regular school day so there is no before or after school commitment for our students and their families.

The Howbert staff agreed to work in cooperation with the Catamount Institute for a minimum of at least 4 sessions or 12 hours a school year for each grade level. The Catamount Institute staff continues to work with the teachers and administration of the school to tailor the program to best serve the student population of our school.



Community Partnerships

Howbert and Catamount Outdoor Schools utilize Rock Ledge Ranch, Garden of the Gods and Westmoor Park.

Costs & Transportation

Thanks to Howbert and Colorado Springs School District 11, this amazing outdoor classroom learning experience is provided at no cost to our students and their families.



What Howbert teachers are saying about Catamount Outdoor Schools:

Catamount Outdoor education gives all students access to relevant, hands-on science learning! Using teamwork, children are able to learn about their role in taking care of our community and our environment. We love working with Catamount!--Mrs. Janson, 5th Grade Teacher

Taking my students to Catamount at the beginning of the year was a huge benefit to our classroom. The students learned to work together as a team to solve problems, learn about nature and science concepts, and make our world a little better than how they found it. I've seen the benefits this school year and have asked questions starting with, "Do you remember when we did this at Catamount?" One student told me he wished we could have school outside all year.--Mrs. Kindt, 4th Grade Teacher

Watching my students learn outdoors with Catamount has been priceless. From their interaction with nature, to their rich learning that is taking place, to the excitement my students feel, I could not be happier with this program.--Mrs. Green, 4th/5th Grade Teacher

To learn more about Howbert's Catamount Outdoor Schools partnership, contact either Mrs. Beth Austin at 471-0910 or Mr. Bryan K. Relich at Howbert at 328-4200.



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