



Highlands Center for Natural History

October 17, 2016

“Children cannot truly know the look and feel of plants and soil through textbooks and videos. They must experience it through the use of a living laboratory such as what we now have at Abia Judd Elementary School with our Schoolyard Habitat” : Sandy Spillman-Second Grade Teacher, Abia Judd Elementary School.

Over the last eleven years, with the support from our members and friends, the Highlands Center for Natural History (HCNH) has established a specialized educational program that enriches the lives of thousands of students each year – *The Schoolyard Habitat Program.*

Last year contributions totaling over \$40,000 in tax credit donations to Abia Judd Elementary School allowed us to revitalize their outdoor classroom and garden area. Currently our staff is working in close partnership with their teachers to train, inspire and mentor them to use this beautiful outdoor space to enrich their science curriculum while getting all their children into the outdoors on a regular basis.

In 2017, we will partner with Mountain Oak School in Prescott. Mountain Oak recently relocated to a new location in Prescott that has open land that, with your support, can be restored into a rich, diverse native habitat. **Your tax credit contributions to Mountain Oak School will help HCNH to create an outdoor classroom and provide for two years of teacher support and student instruction from Highlands Center staff.** Director Cynthia Roe shares: *“The fact that more and more children spend less and less time in the outdoors is a very real concern for many educators. It is vital that children know and understand the true nature of our world. Mountain Oak School is grateful for the opportunity our students will receive while interacting with the Highlands Center, to create a School Yard Habitat and experience this curriculum.”*

Please consider supporting this beneficial program by directing your 2016 Arizona School Tax Credit contribution to the Mountain Oak Schoolyard Habitat Program. Arizona tax law permits taxpayers a dollar-for-dollar tax credit of up to **\$200.00** (individual taxpayer) or **\$400.00** (married filing jointly) if they contribute to extra-curricular activities in a public school. You no longer need to itemize your state return to participate and you can also take a charitable deduction on your federal income tax. This is a great way to keep your state tax contributions working here in the tri-city area while supporting a program that aligns with your values.

Please take a moment now to make your contribution to Mountain Oak and mail it to the Highlands Center using the enclosed envelope. We will forward your donation to Mountain Oak and they will provide you with an official receipt for tax purposes. We ask that you make your donation by December 31 to qualify for a 2016 tax credit. **Please help us extend quality outdoor, science-based learning experiences to even more students in our region.**

Sharing the Wonder,

Dave Irvine
Executive Director

The Highlands Center is a privately funded, member-supported, educational organization. All donations are tax deductible.

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Arizona State School Tax Credit

Please make your check payable to **Mountain Oak School** and **send directly** to the Highlands Center by December 31st, 2016 to ensure your donation is used specifically for the Schoolyard Habitat Program. You may also put your donation on your Master Card or Visa (only).

Amount of donation: \$ _____

Name of Taxpayer: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Credit Card # _____ Sec# _____ Exp _____

Signature _____

Mail to: Highlands Center for Natural History
1375 South Walker Road
Prescott, Arizona 86303

Credit card contributions can also be called in to 928-776-9550 or faxed to 928-776-9530