



Highlands Center for Natural History

October 22, 2018

"My students love the Habitat class. Not only did they enjoy it, but I saw them being very engaged. I think the Habitat class will make a very good impression on the kids as far as being favorable to science class as a whole".

Viola Jensen, 5th Grade Teacher - Liberty Traditional School

Over the last 13 years, with the support from our members and friends, the Highlands Center for Natural History (HCNH) has established a specialized educational program that has enriched the lives of tens of thousands of students – *The Schoolyard Habitat Program.*

Last year's Tax Credit contributions to Liberty Traditional School, totaling over \$43,000, allowed us to create an outdoor classroom and native garden in an unused, gravel-covered courtyard. Our staff is working in close partnership with their teachers to mentor, guide and inspire them to enrich their science curriculum by bringing their students into the Habitat each month to wonder, explore and discover.

In 2019 we begin a new partnership with Humboldt Elementary School. Being a rural school, they do not always have access to high quality science education opportunities that the Highlands Center provides. **Your tax credit contributions to Humboldt Elementary School will help HCNH to establish a native landscape and outdoor classroom at the school and provide two years of teacher support and student instruction from Highlands Center staff.** Principal Stacy Brush shares: *"We are looking forward to our partnership with the Highland Center as we begin designing our schoolyard habitat. This is an exceptional opportunity for our students to attain the skills and knowledge needed to develop and construct a real-life project. Our teachers are excited to begin using the curriculum in a hands-on environment. We are thrilled to involve our whole learning community in this project."*

Please consider supporting this program by directing your 2018 Arizona School Tax Credit contribution to the Humboldt Elementary 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) for contributions to extra-curricular activities in a public school. You no longer need to itemize your state return to participate. 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 to make your contribution to Humboldt Elementary School and mail it to the Highlands Center using the enclosed envelope. We will forward your donation to the school and they will provide you with an official receipt for tax purposes. You have until April 15, 2019 to make your gift to qualify for a 2018 tax credit. **However, making your gift before the end of 2018 will enable us to construct the Habitat this spring and have it student-ready by Fall 2019.**

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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Last year HCNH partnered with Liberty Traditional School to create a Schoolyard Habitat and outdoor classroom in an unused, gravel covered courtyard. Your tax credit gifts made this transformation possible and will also provide quality hands-on science instruction by HCNH staff for the next two years. Below are comments from the eighth grade students impacted by your generosity after their first class in the new Habitat.



From the Students

The habitat was actually a very moving experience. It was very, very cool and interesting to see all the living things work together. It would just be awesome to always have the Habitat there to learn from.

I believe it's great for Liberty students to go to the Habitat because it lets us learn outside and see nature with our eyes instead of on a screen in class

I had a wonderful time in the Habitat. I haven't been in a HCNH Habitat since the 5th grade. Thank you for showing me how it felt to be a kid again.

I was amazed when I learned that you can eat the berries from a lemonade berry plant! There were a surprising amount of insects that are thriving in the environment that we created.



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