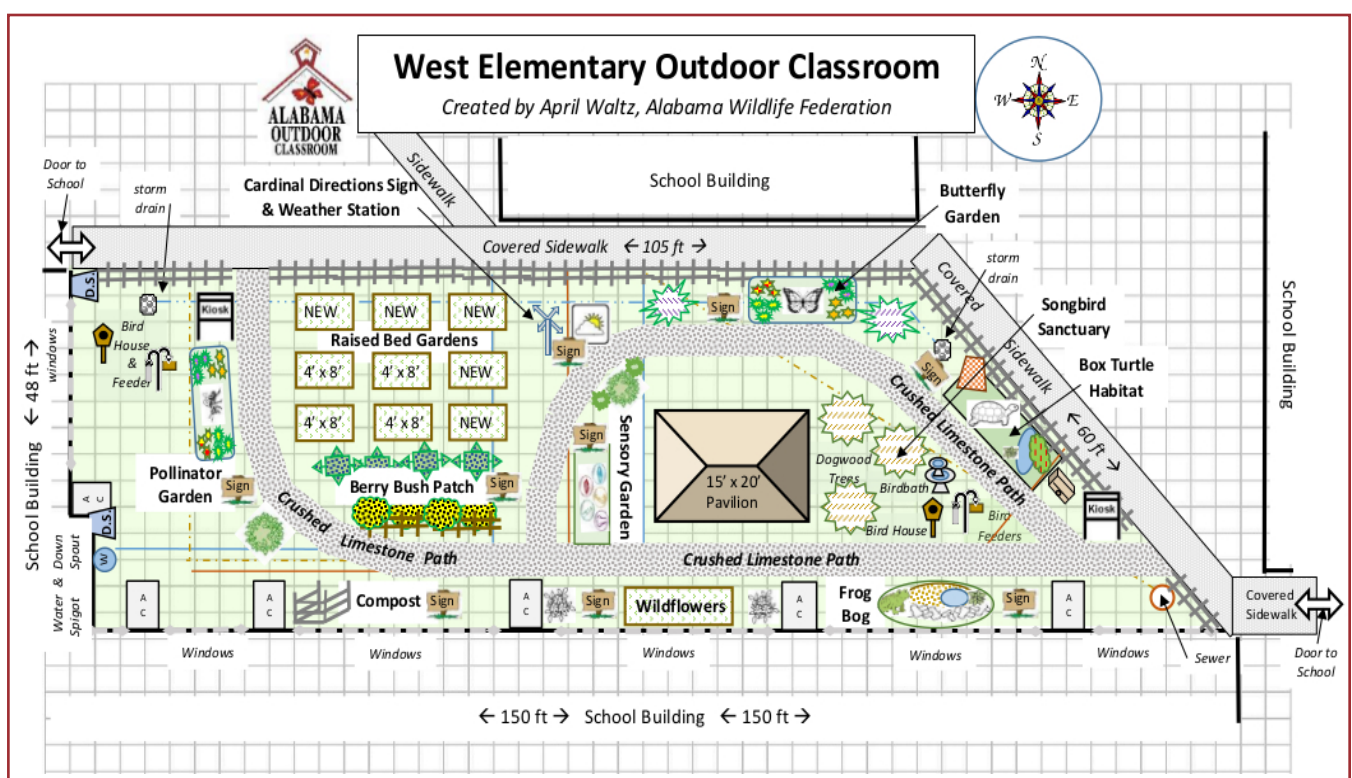




A school can enroll in the Alabama Outdoor Classroom (AOC) program at any time during their outdoor classroom development, but we encourage schools to enroll as soon as you have administrative approval and have created your planning committee so that your school can enjoy all of the AOC program benefits. Below are the enrollment and program details.



Outdoor Classroom Consultants work with the schools enrolled in the Alabama Outdoor Classroom Program to create a free site map or schematic of what the outdoor classroom could include once all of the learning stations are completed.

Enrollment

Enroll your school, register your planning committee, and pay your one-time enrollment fee on the Alabama Wildlife Federation (AWF) website.

When the AWF receives your enrollment, we will send you your free Outdoor Classroom Planning Guides and an Outdoor Classroom Consultant will contact you to set up a meeting with you and your planning committee.

Once the school is officially enrolled in the Alabama Outdoor Classroom Program (AOC), be sure to notify the faculty and place an announcement in the school's newsletter so that everyone will be informed of your plans and progress.

Alabama Outdoor Classroom Program Benefits

The AOC program partners strive to provide as many benefits and opportunities as possible for enrolled Outdoor Classroom Schools, including the following:

Technical and Organizational Assistance

- ❖ AWF Outdoor Classroom Consultants, Alabama Cooperative

Extension System (ACES) Agents, and trained Master Gardeners provide free technical advice and organizational assistance.

- ❖ AWF's Outdoor Classroom E-newsletter includes important information about grants, workshops, activities, and maintenance tips to help you create, use and sustain your outdoor classroom.
- ❖ Your local Outdoor Classroom Consultant will work with your planning committee to develop a Master Plan with short-term and long-term goals, an outdoor classroom site map that demonstrates where the various learning stations will be located, and a list of materials and estimated budget for each of the learning stations.
- ❖ Your local Outdoor Classroom Consultant will work with your planning committee to help you hold Outdoor Classroom Work Day(s) so that your students, teachers, parents and community volunteers can work side-by-side during a school day to build new outdoor learning stations, plant plants, and/or carry out maintenance tasks.

Educator Workshops

- ❖ AWF Outdoor Classroom Consultants provide free in-service Outdoor Classroom teacher training workshops and professional development.
- ❖ AWF, ACES, and other AOC Partners offer thematic Outdoor Classroom workshops throughout the year that provide tips, advice and activities about a wide variety of topics such as “Birds & Butterflies,” “Citizen Science Activities,” “Gardening,” and other topics.

Grant Opportunities

- ❖ AWF offers competitive, annual Outdoor Classroom grants (when possible) for schools enrolled in the AOC program. Visit the *OC Grants, Funding & Support* section of AWF’s website for details.

Outdoor Classroom Social Media

- ❖ The Alabama Outdoor Classroom Program Facebook page includes posts by OC Consultants and teachers about resources, grants, and activity ideas for schools with outdoor classrooms.

- ❖ Follow the Alabama Outdoor Classroom on Pinterest for ideas about outdoor classroom activities, learning stations, educational signs and more.

Recognition & Certification

- ❖ Once a school completes AOC certification requirements (see Step 10 for certification details), an Outdoor Classroom Consultant will help your school host a Certification Ceremony to celebrate your accomplishments.
- ❖ AOC certification benefits include a personalized certificate, an Alabama Outdoor Classroom sign, a full set of the APTV *Discovering Alabama* DVDs, and a National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitats® certification (optional).
- ❖ Upon enrollment, your school will be added to the Alabama Outdoor Classroom Schools Map on AWF’s website which will link to a webpage for your outdoor classroom.

Discovering Alabama



Dr. Doug Phillips provides enormous leadership and support for conservation education programs in Alabama including the Alabama Outdoor Classroom Program.

The *Discovering Alabama* tv series is an Alabama Public Television program that explores Alabama’s natural resources and biodiversity and the connections between our natural and cultural heritage, which makes learning locally relevant for students who watch it.

Watch a *Discovering Alabama* DVD with your students to introduce them to Alabama’s rich natural history and biodiversity, and use the free Teacher’s Guides that contain activities and lessons for each specific episode to tie the program to your course of study objectives.

Dr. Doug Phillips, host of the show, donates a copy of a *Discovering Alabama* DVD along with the accompanying Teacher Guide to each school as they enroll in the AOC program, and he later donates the entire *Discovering Alabama* DVD series to schools when they certify their outdoor classroom through the AOC program.

For more information and to download free *Discovering Alabama* Teacher’s Guides, visit www.discoveringalabama.org.



West Morgan Elementary students love to watch the free *Discovering Alabama* DVDs that the school received upon completing AOC certification.