



## Alabama Outdoor Classroom Program School Certification Checklist

After you have completed the development of your outdoor classroom and schoolyard wildlife habitat, and you are using it as an education tool with your students, it is time to certify your outdoor classroom through the Alabama Outdoor Classroom Program!

Your Alabama Wildlife Federation Outdoor Classroom Consultant will assist you and your planning committee with the certification process, which typically takes about 6-8 weeks.

### Certification Requirements

To certify your outdoor classroom, your school must fulfill the following requirements:

- On-site outdoor classroom evaluation meeting** with your AWF Outdoor Classroom Consultant;
- A **model outdoor classroom** that you are ready to present to other schools across Alabama;
- An **active planning committee** that meets at least four times a year (twice in fall & twice in spring);
- ALL **core outdoor learning stations**:
  - sensory garden       pollinator garden       songbird sanctuary       weather station
  - butterfly garden       frog & toad habitat       log decomposition station       cardinal directions sign
- Educational learning station signs** with QR Codes linked to AWF's Ecosystem Investigation webpages for ALL core learning stations;
- Plant identification signs** with QR Codes linked to AWF's Dig Into Plants webpages;
- Teachers use **hands-on, inquiry-based activities** in conjunction with the outdoor learning stations;
- A **year-round maintenance plan** that includes weekly maintenance tasks, seasonal learning station adoption, and a summer maintenance schedule; and
- Up-to-date records** in your school's online OC Records Hub accessible through the Alabama Wildlife Federation's website.

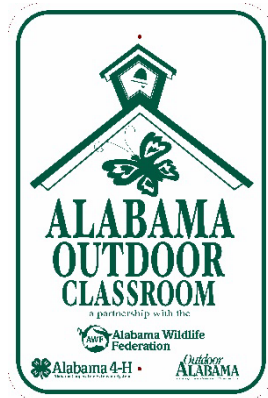
### Benefits of Certification

When you are ready for certification, your AWF Outdoor Classroom Consultant will meet with you and your planning committee to assist you with the certification process, which includes organizing a certification ceremony to receive your certification awards.

Upon certification, your school will receive the following:

- ✓ A certification ceremony (*or presentation - \*see note below*) with your faculty, students, parents, volunteers, sponsors, school board members, and other dignitaries to celebrate your accomplishments and recognize your school's partners who helped you develop your outdoor classroom;
- ✓ An official Alabama Outdoor Classroom Certification Sign & Certificate;
- ✓ A customized Outdoor Classroom Activity Kit including educational materials and supplies that your school needs such as magnifying loupes, field ID guides, etc.;
- ✓ A full set of *Discovering Alabama* DVDs & teacher guides from Dr. Doug Phillips; and
- ✓ A National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitats® Certificate & Sign (*optional*).

**\*Certification Presentation:** *If you prefer not to have a ceremony, we can present your certification awards at a faculty meeting instead.*



For more info about the Alabama Outdoor Classroom Program, visit <https://www.alabamawildlife.org/outdoor-classroom-program/>