



## WHY WE SUPPORT

# OUTDOOR EDUCATION

A study of 40 schools in twelve states compared classrooms that integrated the natural environment into lessons with those that did not, and found that enthusiasm for learning, standardized test scores, and GPAs were higher in 92% of the comparisons. According to a study by the California Department of Education, at-risk children who participated in outdoor education programs raised their science test scores by 27%, improved their conflict resolution and problem-solving skills, and experienced better self-esteem and motivation to learn.<sup>1</sup>

### **Nature-Based Learning Improves Critical Thinking Skills<sup>2</sup>**

Research also shows improvements in motivation to learn and classroom behavior.

### **Movement in Nature Significantly Reduces ADHD Symptoms<sup>3</sup>**

Natural settings reduce stress and improve student coping ability; it's like a "reset" button for fidgety kids and adults.

### **Being in Nature Enhances Problem Solving & Conflict Resolution Skills<sup>4</sup>**

Time outdoors increases a child's propensity to cooperate and actively care about others and the environment.

### **Schools with Outdoor Education Programs Perform Better on Standardized Tests in Math, Reading, Writing, and Listening<sup>5</sup>**

Outdoor activity improves concentration, retention, behavior, and cognitive function.

*Whole Child Learning Environments promote nature-based learning, healthy habits, and essential life skills. The Audacious Foundation helps schools implement proven outdoor education programs from experienced providers.*

#### Sources Include:

- 1 State Education and Environment Roundtable: CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP: Using the Environment as an Integrating Context for Learning
- 2 Ernst, Julie (Athman) and Martha Monroe: The Effects Of Environment-Based Education On Students' Critical Thinking Skills And Disposition Toward Critical Thinking, Environmental Education Research, Nov. 2004
- 3 Wells, N.M.: At Home With Nature: Effects Of "Greenness" On Children's Cognitive Functioning, Environment and Behavior (32), Nov. 2000, pp. 775-795
- 4 American Institutes for Research: Effects of Outdoor Education Programs for Children in California, <http://www.tcoe.org/SCICON/ABI330FinalReport.pdf>
- 5 Bartosh, Oksana: Environmental Education: Improving Student Achievement. Thesis. Evergreen State College, 2003, <http://www.seer.org/pages/research/Bartosh2003.pdf>

**Audacious**  
foundation

A Complete Learning Experience  
for the Whole Child

Santa Barbara, California

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