



Centro de Educación Creativa

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CLOUD FOREST SCHOOL RECEIVES FIRST NWF'S SCHOOLYARD HABITATS CERTIFICATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA

The Cloud Forest School, also known as the Centro de Educacion Creativa in Monteverde, Costa Rica has received the National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats certification, the first in Central America. In order to qualify for this certification, the Cloud Forest School needed to demonstrate that their school grounds provide unique, hands-on, outdoor learning opportunities that cannot be duplicated in the traditional classroom setting in addition to showing how the campus is an important part of their local ecosystem. The school is an environmentally - focused, bilingual school located on 106 acres of reserved tropical cloud forest in Monteverde, Costa Rica. The Cloud Forest School is a living laboratory for local students. Of the little over 210 students in grades K through 11, 92% are local Costa Rican children. The environmental program is carefully integrated into the traditional curriculum and teachers are encouraged to look for ways to incorporate the outdoor environment into their classroom activities. The school has planted several theme gardens to support wildlife; two of which are the Hummingbird Garden and the Bat Garden. Native plants, that are essential to the survival of these two types of animals, have been carefully selected and planted. In addition there are epiphyte, avian frugivore and restoration ecology gardens. Many rare and unique species of plants and animals are found on the campus. The National Wildlife Federation was established in 1936 to inspire people to protect wildlife. Their belief is that education is the key to creating a world where wildlife thrives.