



New Hampshire Charter School Office

Best Practice Submission Form

School Name:	Heartwood
Best Practice Title:	Outdoor Exploration
Applicable Categories:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accountability and Performance Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Business Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Community/Student Engagement <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum Design <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership & Governance <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Development <input type="checkbox"/> Recruitment and Retention (Staff or Student) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Culture <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
School Mission:	Heartwood Public Charter School educates students through authentic place-based experiences, empowering them to find meaning, engage deeply, and think critically. By using our community as our classroom, students cultivate a love for learning and explore academics within meaningful contexts. We strive to develop inspired students who become stewards of the earth and active citizens of the world
Purpose:	To build a school culture where students feel connected to nature and have ample opportunities to build social-emotional skills through play.
Summary:	All students in grades K-6 have one full hour of outdoor exploration time during the day. This time is spent in the woods and fields, in most weather, with classroom teachers present to facilitate the experience. We have seen students grow in all areas through this time, including their ability to navigate social conflict, their physical strength and motor ability, and their relationship to the natural world. Outdoor exploration is a foundational aspect of Heartwood's school culture that students, teachers, and families value and look forward to the many opportunities it offers.
Partner(s) in Development:	
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Resources or Documentation:	