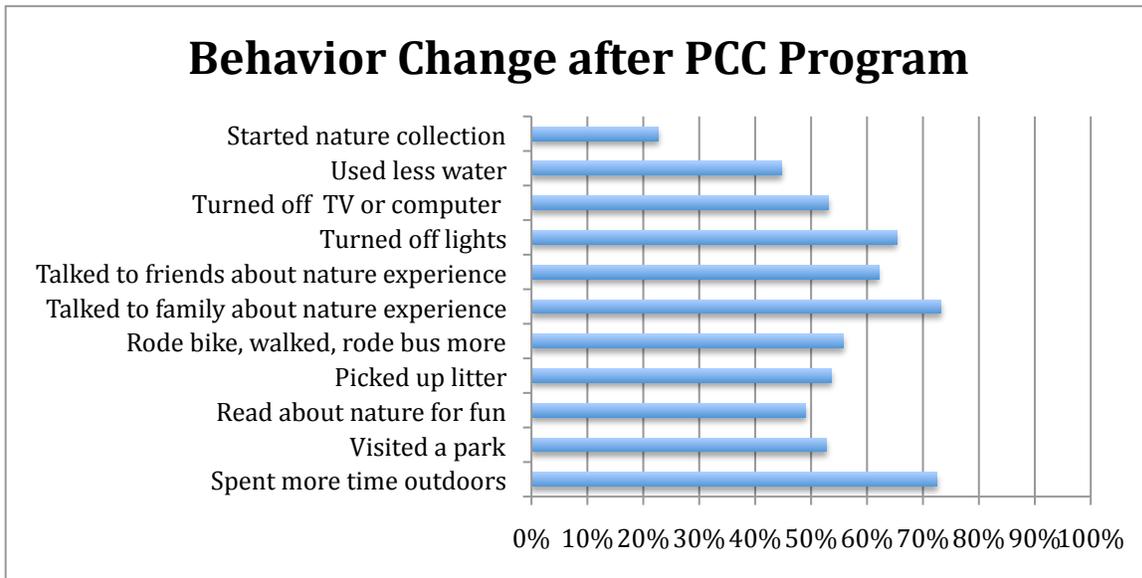


Polk County Conservation School-Based Education 2009-2010 Report

***Polk County Environmental Education makes a difference:
after attending a program, most young people—***

- Talk to family and friends about their experience
- Spend more time outdoors
- Use parks more
- Ride the bus, carpool, walk and bike more
- Turn off lights, computers and television when not in use

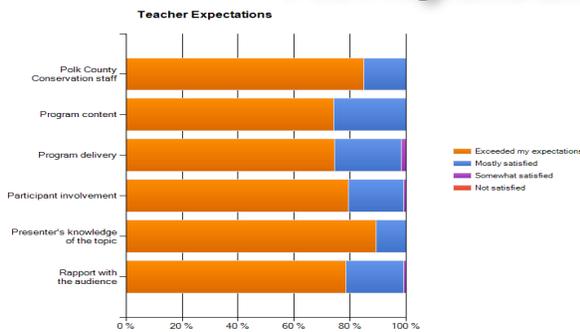


“Everything about the programs that we used aligned with our science curriculum. The hands-on activities are great for children to really experience and get involved with learning. They loved playing the game about predators and prey in the prairie, making their own ponds and catching bugs and tadpoles. The hike was a great experience especially building...habitats...The naturalists...kept the attention of the students, were knowledgeable; things moved smoothly.”

--Third Grade Teacher



PCC Programs Exceed Expectations!

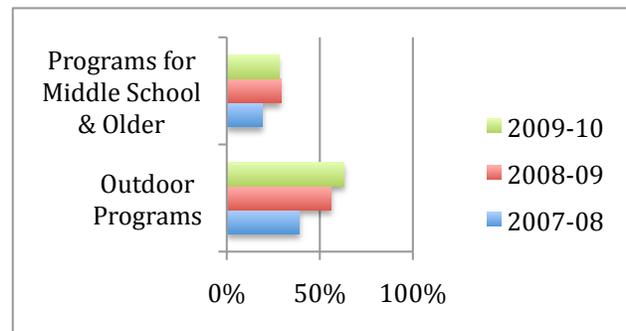


Though teachers express a high level of satisfaction with all PCC programs, the percentage whose expectations were exceeded increased when the program was outdoors. This was especially true for satisfaction with staff and presenter knowledge. Teachers are even happier with field trips than with classroom programs.

Since 2007, Polk County Conservation naturalists have focused on two major areas of program improvement—

- **Increasing programming with youth in 6th grade and above**
- **Increasing the percentage of programs conducted in the outdoors**

The chart to the right shows growth in both of those areas over the last three years.



“The program is very well organized and the naturalists are well prepared, organized, knowledgeable, in tune with children and communicate well. The prairie was tall and the children found lots of insects and had a wonderful time playing a game about predators and prey. They loved the nature hike and building habitats for animals. The playscape was new this year and the children had a wonderful time exploring, digging, climbing, etc. This program is wonderful and all the hands on activities are very good for exploratory learning.”

--Third Grade Teacher

“My students get the chance to appreciate what the outdoors has to offer. It can be a quiet place to observe, think, and reflect. It can also be a place to explore and have fun.”

--Eleventh Grade Teacher



Survey Background

- PCC naturalists worked with 21,256 students in 913 groups during 2009-2010.
- 113 of those teachers completed the survey; about 1,411 young people were in their classrooms for the environmental educational programs.
- 59 teachers (52%) polled their students to determine behavior change