

## Ms. Cohen's Costa Rica Trip

By Beau Ballas

This is the time Ms. Cohen went to Costa Rica. Ms. Cohen's trip was organized and graciously funded by Conservation International and Northrop Grummon. This was Ms. Cohen's 3<sup>rd</sup> trip to Costa Rica. She saw many different animals such as, Toed Sloths. She visited a momma and baby sloth every day and got very connected. She saw Peccaries, which are pigs, Fer de Lance which is one of the most poisonous snake on the face of this planet, she saw Howler monkeys, Capuchin monkeys, Iguanas, Caymans, and lots and lots of spiders. Ms. Cohen learned a lot of new things when she was in the Rain Forest. She got to learn how to set up and use camera traps. She learned how to take count of trees to figure out how much carbon they contained. She got to climb a canopy tower to see the op of the Rain Forest. She went river kayaking. She got to meet amazing new scientists doing a lot of amazing research. Ms. Cohen spent a month learning how to surf, working on her Spanish, and scuba diving. She didn't go alone she went with 4 teachers including Ms. West, who had worked on the grant with Ms. Cohen. She also got to meet other teachers in teams from all over the country, as well as other scientists, and teachers and coordinators for the Eco Classroom Program and the research facility. It was very hot humid at Costa Rica. It rained every day and most of the nights. Costa Rica is a very tropical place and there are a lot Rainforests everywhere. The Howler monkeys hated the night, and would start to howl (they're not called Howler monkeys for no reason). Ms. Cohen and everyone else were woken up at 4am, not surprising for them. While Ms. Cohen working on her Environmental Explorers elective curriculum

as well as her 7<sup>th</sup> grade Life Science one. She had a lot of Rainforest activities built in her lessons. Ms. Cohen spent 2 weeks at La Selva Biological Research Station and a little under a month she traveled the west coast of Costa Rica. Ms. Cohen learned a lot of new things. Her mind was blown when the beam of her flashlight at night pointed orange and green shining eyes of millions of spiders. Ms. Cohen had a terrific experience and wishes every one can go to Costa Rica. Her research experience develop curriculum for her own classes, All of the things she has to share with the other teachers will blow there minds for sure because I know it blew my mind, especially about all of the animals she got to see, the glowing spider eyes, and the momma and baby sloths she got to see made me very jealous. The experience Ms. Cohen had is probably a once in a life time chance and I hope I can go to Costa Rica one day.

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