

**GOVERNOR SPONSORED ACTIONS
RELATED TO THE LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE MOVEMENT**

February 2010

*Denotes task force formed by governor

California – Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

In 2007, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a proclamation supporting the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

<http://www.calroundtable.org/cobor.htm>

Colorado – Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien

In 2010, Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien released a [Children's Bill of Rights and a comprehensive Colorado Kids Outdoors Report](#) that outlines the barriers to Colorado kids spending time in the outdoors, while Rep. Christine Scanlan (D-Summit County) and Sen. Dan Gibbs (D-Summit County) announced legislation designed to bridge that gap. HB - 1131 that will teach Colorado's students about nature through science-based education and creating a fund to allow kids to directly experience the outdoors.

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/LeftLtGov/LLG/1251570065334>

Connecticut – Governor M. Jodi Rell

In 2006, Governor Rell and Gina McCarthy, Connecticut's Commissioner of Environmental Protection who is now in a senior role with the Obama administration, launched a program to connect families to the outdoors through state parks. It was the first formal program to call itself No Child Left Inside.

<http://www.nochildleftinside.org/>

Florida – Governor Charlie Crist

In 2009, the Get Outdoors Florida! Partnership was endorsed by a resolution passed by Governor Charlie Crist and the Cabinet of Florida. The resolution also includes a Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

<http://www.getoutdoorsflorida.com/Documents/resolution.pdf>

[http://www.getoutdoorsflorida.com/Documents/cbr_flyer_OL%20\(4\).pdf](http://www.getoutdoorsflorida.com/Documents/cbr_flyer_OL%20(4).pdf)

Illinois – Governor Pat Quinn

On January 30, 2009, Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn, at his first press conference as governor, vowed to do something about the gap between today's children and the natural world. "I recently read a book," Quinn said. "It talked about nature-deficit disorder where we should leave no child inside." On March 5, he reopened seven state parks, arguing again that Illinois children deserved every chance to connect with nature. To this, he added a more direct economic argument: State parks bring tourism dollars to the state and also are important for local residents who can't afford to go on vacations during tough economic times. <http://www.illinois.gov/PressReleases/PressReleasesListShow.cfm?RecNum=7566>

Kansas – Governor Kathleen Sebelius*

On April 13, 2009, Governor Kathleen Sebelius issued an Executive Order creating the Kansas Coalition for Children in Nature (KCCN). The KCCN was created to foster Kansas youth's appreciation, understanding and involvement with the outdoors. The Kansas Coalition for Children in Nature (KCCN) will promote outdoor learning experiences and environmental education for the young people of Kansas and provide ongoing support for these endeavors

[http://www.kacee.org/files/Kansas%20Executive Order 09-02%20Final.pdf](http://www.kacee.org/files/Kansas%20Executive%20Order%2009-02%20Final.pdf)

Maine – Governor John E. Balducci

In 2008, Governor Balducci held a Take It Outside conference attended by approximately 400 professionals and others interested in getting children active outdoors. <http://take-it-outside.com/conferenceindex.html>. He subsequently established the Take it Outside program to encourage Maine's children and families to reconnect with nature. In announcing the program, he said "we can start today to make a difference in the lives of our children. Kids are healthier and happier when they are exposed to the wonders of nature".

<http://take-it-outside.com/>

Maryland – Governor Martin O'Malley*

In 2008, Governor Martin O'Malley created a Partnership for Children in Nature. He charged the partnership with creating an environmental literacy plan for Maryland students, increasing opportunities for structured outdoor learning on state parks and conservation lands, and enhancing school and community natural areas to enable more play and learning outdoors. The partnership also worked on improving environmental education by connecting existing natural resources camps and other outdoor programs to state learning standards, and increasing minority visitation to public lands. The task force submitted the Vision for Children in Nature Report in 2009.

http://www.dnr.state.md.us/download/CIN_DOC_FINAL_ForWeb.pdf

Governor O'Malley signed the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights in 2009 as well.

<http://www.governor.maryland.gov/documents/OutdoorBillOfRights.pdf>

Michigan – Governor Jennifer Granholm

Governor Granholm proclaimed April 20-25, 2009 No Child Left Inside Days, with the Department of Natural Resources encouraging families to take a pledge to participate in outdoor activities. Their website links to the Michigan No Child Left Inside Coalition.

http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10369_45551---,00.html

Montana – Governor Brian Schweitzer

Governor Schweitzer so-chaired the National Forum on Children and Nature in 2006 and held the Montana Children and Nature Summit in 2008. Schweitzer said "The First Lady and I established our Math and Science Initiative to encourage children to discover the wonders of Montana through learning and exploration. That's why we are so excited about the Montana Children and Nature Summit." The summit brought together local, state and federal land and recreation resource managers, health care professionals, educators,

representatives of non-profit groups and private industry to discuss the importance of reconnecting children with nature.

<http://travelmontana.org/VirtualFile/naturesummit.pdf>

New Mexico

In 2007, Governor Bill Richardson signed the SB2, forming the New Mexico Outdoor Classroom/No Child Left Inside initiative. The New Mexico Outdoor Classroom Initiative – the first of its kind in the nation – is an effort to increase outdoor education across the state by utilizing state parks, federal public lands, ranches, nature centers, and other locations. This Initiative is a collaboration between the Public Education Department and New Mexico State Parks, and provides strategies to get schools to parks and parks to schools.

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/prd/OutdoorEdLasCruces.htm>

Pennsylvania – Governor Edward G. Rendell*

In 2007, Governor Rendell held a two-day conference to address the growing disconnect between children and nature. During that conference a 16-member task force was appointed to create a Governor's Outdoor Task Force Report on connecting Pennsylvanians with nature. In addition, a series of public meetings were held throughout the summer of 2007. In 2008, the task force submitted the Governor's Outdoor Task Force Report.

<http://www.connectoutdoors.state.pa.us/Documents/GovOutdoorTaskForceSummary.pdf>

Vermont – Governor James Douglas

In June 2007, Gov. Jim Douglas launched the No Child Left Inside challenge – a program to encourage young Vermonters to get outside. The program was part of the governor's Fit and Healthy Kids Initiative, and a collaborative effort among various state agencies and Vermont's outdoor recreation and health organizations. The program ran through July.

<http://governor.vermont.gov/tools/index.php?topic=GovPressReleases&id=2492&v=Article>

Wyoming – Governor Dave Freudenthal

In 2009, the Wyoming Governor's Task Force on Recreation sponsored the first Wyoming Youth Congress to create Action Plans to implement innovative projects in their home communities focused on connecting kids to nature. The coordinators of the Wyoming Youth Congress will use the success of this idea as a model for other rural states confronting the same challenge to connect kids to the outdoors. To help achieve this goal, a student film crew will be producing a documentary on the Wyoming Youth Congress which will be shared with state and federal agencies and the general public.

http://www.nationalparkgallery.com/park_news/9212