

STATE OF OHIO

Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

Ohio Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

Today's children are losing their connection with our natural world and spend an average of 7 hours a day watching TV, playing video games and on the computer. The effects of this can be seen nationwide as childhood obesity rates are rapidly increasing and children are suffering from long-term developmental and social impacts.

Children who are in touch with their natural environment are healthier, do better in school, have increased creativity and improved concentration. Realizing these benefits, the State of Ohio, in partnership with the Ohio Leave No Child Inside Collaboratives (representing more than 100 organizations across the state), is committed to helping Ohio's children reunite with nature, live more active, healthier lives, and discover the rewards of becoming environmental stewards.

I encourage parents, educators and youth leaders to join us in this effort to ensure that Ohio's children have the opportunity to reconnect with nature – making them happier, healthier and smarter.

THEREFORE, I, TED STRICKLAND, Governor of the State of Ohio, recognize that every Ohio child shall have the opportunity to:

- Be physically active and play outside every day to grow up healthy
- Have access to safe, natural green spaces in their community
- Connect with nature, with free time to explore the outdoors
- Discover the wonders of plants and animals, large and small, using all five senses
- Explore the diversity of Ohio's natural habitats
- Understand the patterns and cycles in nature
- Experience the joys of splashing, playing and swimming in safe, clean lakes and streams
- Be fully immersed in nature by camping overnight
- Learn how to give back to nature

On this 15th day of September 2010


Ted Strickland

Governor