



Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside

Thank You for your interest in accepting the challenge to be “A Best in Ohio” Connect to Nature School or Site which will help our children be Happier, Healthier and Smarter!

In 2010 the State of Ohio followed by 28 local Miami Valley municipalities adopted the Ohio Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights outlining 9 rights all children should have encouragement and access to nature to exercise. Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside and Dayton Regional Green have created this award and criteria with community input to recognize institutions helping our children enact these rights. This award is issued to any individual park, school or other site based institution, but it cannot be used to award an entire school district, park district, large multi-facility library etc. Each of those individual sites should apply for this recognition individually.

The well-being, health, and academic benefits for youth spending time in nature in are well documented and can be accessed via the [Children and Nature Network research library](#). Our youth need help gaining these benefits by having us all encourage them in the places they are spending time: school, home, places of worship, parks, and other community organizations. We all want the best for our children: for them to be good citizens leading healthy happily lives in a good environment. Therefore, this initiative speaks to the foundation of success of all efforts as we pass on our legacy to our children.

We invite you to review our application for schools and all other sites (businesses, places of worship, parks, etc...). To help you with ideas on how to enable these rights we have provided two supplemental documents, "Resources to Help You Accomplish Award Criteria Schools" and "Resources to Help You Accomplish Award Criteria Sites" in case you have questions about the certification process. These links can be found at our website. If you have concerns over accomplishing the required criteria we welcome your questions. Please contact:

Cinda Hanbuch-Pinkerton 937-478-1036, cindahp@miamicountyparks.com

or Douglas Horvath at Five Rivers MetroParks, 937 277-4835, dhorvath@metroparks.org

Sincerely,

The Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside Executive Board:

Doug Horvath, Five Rivers MetroParks; MVLNCI Chair, Co-chair, DRG Connect to Nature Task Group

Cinda Hanbuch Pinkerton, Miami County Park District; Co-chair, DRG Connect to Nature Task Group

June Drieling, Brukner Nature Center

Elizabeth Elam, BA/Mentor, Hike it Baby

Meredith Florkey, Learning Tree Farm

Robert Harrison, Public Health Dayton Montgomery County

Kristen Lauer, Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District

Katy F. Lucas, Centerville-Washington Park District

Mandy Martin, Darke County Park District