

# State Of Florida

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, spending time outdoors is a healthy and emotionally satisfying experience for people of all ages, and is especially beneficial for our children, affording them an enjoyable way to get physical exercise, enhance mental and social development and gain an appreciation for Florida's great array of natural areas and diverse wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, growing evidence suggests the trend in children's declining mental and physical health and their separation from nature are linked; and

**WHEREAS**, outdoor recreation results in tangible economic benefits to families and communities through reduction of health care costs, increased local spending and recruitment of families and businesses looking for active and aesthetic communities; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous studies document that children who participate in outdoor activities are healthier, do better in school, have better social skills and self-image and lead more fulfilled lives; and

**WHEREAS**, the growing disconnect between children and nature is a concern that resonates across all demographic and cultural segments of our societies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Get Outdoors Florida! Coalition is an extraordinary union of public and private partners that include federal and state land managers, state conservation, health and education agencies, educators, healthcare providers, non-profits, and businesses with a common mission of engaging communities, families and individuals in outdoor experiences to achieve healthier lifestyles, improve communities and sustain Florida's natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Get Outdoors Florida! partnership came together because of the shared knowledge that by connecting our communities with nature, we enhance opportunities for greater public health, child welfare, community well-being, environmental education, increased tourism, fish and wildlife conservation and ongoing land management; and

**WHEREAS**, the Get Outdoors Florida! Coalition has created the Florida Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights providing that every child has the right to

- Swim in a healthy lake
- Build a sandcastle or outdoor fort
- Camp out under the stars
- Climb a tree
- Catch a fish
- Hike a path
- Watch a bird
- Listen to a cricket, bird or frog
- Smell a wildflower
- Explore nature
- Volunteer to help wildlife
- Celebrate Florida's heritage

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida, do hereby recognize the

### **GET OUTDOORS FLORIDA! COALITION**

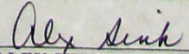
and the children's outdoor bill of rights and encourage all Floridians and their families participation in outdoor activities throughout the year.


**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida have hereunto subscribed their names and have caused the Official Seal of the State of Florida to be hereunto affixed in the City of Tallahassee on this 24<sup>th</sup> day March, 2009.



  
CHARLIE CRIST  
GOVERNOR

  
BILL MCCOLLUM  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

  
ALEX SINK  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

  
CHARLES H. BRONSON  
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE