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## Southern Nevada Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights Initiative

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# Southern Nevada Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights Initiative



**Our Places Tell Stories**  
**February 26, 2010**



# Isn't it Obvious?

- Childhood obesity and related illnesses
- Increased stress levels
- Attention-Deficit Disorder
- Impaired social skills
- Lack of interest and caring for community, green spaces, public lands



# A Groundswell of Action

Sparked by Richard Louv's book

***Last Child in the Woods: Nature-Deficit Disorder***

## National Level

No Child Left Inside Legislation

## State and Community Level

- Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights
- Get Outdoors Campaigns

## Grassroots Level

Neighborhood Nature Clubs





# Other Outdoor Bill of Rights Initiatives



- California
- Maryland
- Colorado
- Florida
- Chicago, IL
- Lansing, MI

# Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights Components:

- An objective statement
- List of outdoor opportunities
  - Utilizes existing programming and resources
  - General in nature; available to all





# Examples

## California

Every child, by the completion of their 14<sup>th</sup> year, should have the opportunity to:

- Discover California's past
- Splash in the water
- Play in a safe place
- Camp under the stars
- Explore nature
- Learn to swim
- Play on a team
- Follow a trail
- Catch a fish
- Celebrate their heritage

## Lansing, Michigan

Every child should have the opportunity to:

- Discover Lansing's past
- Splash in the water
- Protect the environment
- Camp under the stars
- Explore nature
- Be physically active
- Play on a team
- Follow a trail
- Catch a fish
- Celebrate your heritage
- Geocaching as a family



# Developing a Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

Began with  
California's list

Added Southern  
Nevada context

Got feedback and  
recommendations  
from local  
children

Created  
stakeholders  
group to finalize  
and implement





# Stakeholders Meeting -- 1/27

- ❖ Lead agency - Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP)
- ❖ 20+ agencies and organizations represented
- ❖ Presented DRAFT Bill of Rights for input and revision
- ❖ Next steps
- ❖ Small volunteer working group formed to suggest final bill and next steps



# Volunteer Work Group -- 2/8

- ❖ Developed draft of bill
- ❖ Wrote mission and goal statements
- ❖ Suggested name for stakeholders group
- ❖ Began time line and development of next steps
- ❖ Conducted on-line survey of stakeholders



# DRAFT-Outdoor Bill of Rights

*The children of Southern Nevada have the right to discover and experience the outdoors through the following activities:*

**Create an outdoor adventure.**

**Explore a trail.**

**Camp under the stars.**

**Go fishing.**

**Discover nature.**

**Explore Nevada's heritage.**

**Go on a picnic.**

**Play** in a park.  
in the water.  
in the snow.  
on the rocks.

# Mission

To encourage Southern Nevada's children to participate in outdoor recreational activities, engage in lifelong learning adventures, and become stewards of the environment.





# Goal Statements

- ❖ Increase the participation of all children in outdoor activities.
- ❖ Promote the health benefits of being active outdoors.
- ❖ Increase understanding of Nevada's heritage and support for outdoor recreation opportunities.
- ❖ Promote stewardship of public lands, community environments, and our diverse ecosystems.
- ❖ Enhance outdoor safety awareness and education.





# Results of Stakeholder Survey

- ❖ So close! – Outdoor Bill of Rights and Mission
- ❖ Goal statements
- ❖ Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights Alliance (COBRA)



# Next Steps?

Goal: Integrate the COBR into our agencies and organizations so that it's evident that the whole community is behind the effort.

- ❖ What is my next step to make this happen in my agency/organization?
- ❖ What do you need from COBRA to do this?
- ❖ Do you need anything from the Public Lands Institute, i.e. research findings, resources, etc.?



# Some items to spur discussion:

- ❖ Promotional ideas and products
- ❖ Internal communication
- ❖ External communication
- ❖ Measurements of success