

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: May 21st, 2016 marks the sixth anniversary of Kids to Parks Day, organized and launched by the National Park Trust. This day empowers children of all ages to be active outdoors and encourages families to visit America's parks; and

WHEREAS: Known as "The Natural State", Arkansas is home to the first federal reservation: Hot Springs, set aside in 1832 by President Andrew Jackson to preserve the springs for park purposes; the first and largest national forest in the South: Ouachita National Forest, established by President Teddy Roosevelt in 1908; and the first national river, the Buffalo, one of America's finest free-flowing rivers, established in 1972 by President Richard Nixon; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas has more than two million acres of national forest land, numerous national wildlife refuges and units of the National Park Service, and an outstanding State Parks System comprised of a comprehensive network of state-owned natural areas. These areas can introduce a new generation to Arkansas's parks and our national parks, helping to increase park attendance; and

WHEREAS: Children are encouraged to lead more active lifestyles, helping to combat the issues of childhood obesity, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and hypercholesterolemia; and

WHEREAS: All children and adults need physical exercise for their well-being, and Kids to Parks Day is open to people of all ages, encouraging a large and diverse group of participants to become more active; and

WHEREAS: Kids to Parks Day helps to broaden children's appreciation for our bountiful natural resources, as our parks and recreation areas provide spaces for connecting with Mother Nature and enjoying outdoor activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim May 21st, 2016, as

KIDS TO PARKS DAY IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to make time to take the children in their lives to a neighborhood, state or national park.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 13th day of May, in the year of our Lord 2016.



Asa Hutchinson

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State