

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Arkansas is blessed with outstanding opportunities for safe and healthy fun in the Great Outdoors enjoying our natural splendors in the company of family and in the company of old and new friends; and

WHEREAS: Youth today spend an average of 10 hours a day in front of a screen and outdoor activity is touted by many leading health organizations as a remedy to the adverse effects caused by increased inactivity; and

WHEREAS: Great Outdoors Month includes diverse events designed to connect all Arkansans, especially children and youth, to open-air adventures that can be found in National Trails Day, National Get Outdoors Day, The Great Outdoors Month National Day of Service, the Great American Campout, Kids to Parks Day and more connect citizens of all ages to healthy fun outdoors; and

WHEREAS: Other events during Great Outdoors Month such as National Fishing and Boating Week, National Marina Day and Get Into Your Sanctuary Days provide all of us, especially our children, with exciting opportunities for recreation on the great waters of our state; and

WHEREAS: The economic impact of outdoor recreation is large both nationally, exceeding \$650 billion in annual expenditures, and in Arkansas, where it is estimated at \$13.5 billion and supports some 171,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas' 52 state parks, seven national park units, two national forests , along with numerous local parks reflect every facet of our state's rich natural and cultural history; and

WHEREAS: Many of our important cultural and historic events and traditions are linked to places in our state which are parts of national, state and local park systems; and

WHEREAS: Enjoyment of our Great Outdoors allows us to celebrate the commitment of our state to conserve and protect our air, our water, our wildlife and our lands and contribute to conservation efforts through various licenses, taxes and fees; and

WHEREAS: Great Outdoors Month allows us to celebrate the partnership of federal, state and local agencies, the recreation and tourism industries and recreationists which makes outdoor recreation opportunities available, and adds new and needed features such as improved trails through the Recreational Trails Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund;

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 June, 2016, as

GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

in Arkansas and urge all citizens and visitors from other states and countries to explore, enjoy, protect and conserve Arkansas' Great Outdoors.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 18th day of February, in the year of our Lord 2016.



Asa Hutchinson

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State