

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Arkansas is blessed with outstanding opportunities for people to *Escape the Indoors* by participating in safe and healthy fun in our Great Outdoors in the company of family and friends; and

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

WHEREAS: Diverse Great Outdoors Month® events, including American Hiking Society's National Trails Day®, National Get Outdoors Day, the Great Outdoors Day of Service, the Great American Campout®, Kids to Parks™ Day, Bike Travel Weekend and more, help introduce 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 more, 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 both large and growing nationally, where it produces \$734 billion in gross output and accounts for 2.2% of GDP according to the federal government. In our state alone, it is responsible for \$9.7 billion in consumer spending and directly supports some 96,000 jobs according to the Outdoor Industry Association; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas's state parks, national park units, national forests and more reflect every facet of our state's rich natural and cultural history; 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 2020, as

GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH®

across the State, and I urge all citizens and visitors from other states and countries to *Escape the Indoors* by exploring, enjoying, protecting, and conserving Arkansas's 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 11th day of May, in the year of our Lord 2020.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor