

“Get Outdoors, It’s Yours!” Gets Kids Off the Couch

A new campaign by the Department of the Interior, titled “Get Outdoors, It’s Yours!”, encourages children, educators and families to experience nature firsthand. The program will provide more information for America’s young people about opportunities to get outdoors on national wildlife refuges as well as national parks, national forests and other public lands.

“There is a crisis in America in which our kids are increasingly disconnected from nature,” said Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne. “We must get children off the couch and outdoors. We must get them to turn off the computers and televisions and turn on to the power of wild places and wild creatures to lift them up – to rejuvenate body, soul and spirit.”

The “Get Outdoors, It’s Yours!” initiative will unite all federal land opportunities under one comprehensive platform and encourage the participation of non-profit land partners to develop a seamless portal for information on destinations, programs, special events, and opportunities for educational adventures.

The National Recreation and Park Association and other national nonprofit groups pledged to support the campaign. The groups include American Forests, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the City Park Alliance, the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials, the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation, the National Association of State Park Directors, the National Parks Conservation Association and the National Wildlife Federation.

For more information on the new program, go to www.getoutdoorsitsyours.gov. The web site provides lists of places for all sorts of outdoor activities from biking to wildlife viewing, links to agency web sites for youth, games and other useful materials.