



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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House Passes Bipartisan Legislation to Get Children Outdoors

Washington, DC -- Today, members of Congress on both sides of the aisle came together to pass the Every Kid Outdoors Act, to help get our kids outdoors. The bill, introduced by Representatives Niki Tsongas (D-MA-03), Scott Tipton (R-CO-03), and Diana DeGette (D-CO-01), would encourage fourth graders and their families to visit America's natural, cultural, and historical treasures. The bill authorizes the Department of the Interior, U.S. Forest Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Army Corps of Engineers, to administer a pass program to provide free entry for fourth graders and their families to visit our national public lands, waters, and shores. The companion bill in the Senate is sponsored by Senators Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN).

In response to the passage of the Every Kid Outdoors Act, members of the Outdoors Alliance for Kids issued the following statements:

"The Every Kid Outdoors Act is a powerful way to make it easier for youth to explore our parks and public lands. Exposure to outdoor experiences helps encourage a lifelong sense of adventure and respect for the environment, something we value deeply at The North Face. Together with the Outdoors Alliance for Kids, we're thrilled to see the legislation pass, helping create opportunity for young people and their families to experience our parks and public lands."

– **Arne Arens, President, The North Face**

"Alliance for Childhood is enthusiastic about the opportunities the bipartisan Every Kid Outdoors Act will provide for fourth graders and their families. Together with our partners at Outdoors Alliance for Kids, we look forward to working with federal agencies to ensure all children's healthy development, especially through outdoor, child-directed play in our natural world."

– **Linda Rhoads, Executive Director, Alliance for Childhood**

"National Park Trust thanks the members of the House of Representatives for their bipartisan support of the Every Kid Outdoors Act which will encourage all 4th grade children and their families to explore and discover our parks, public lands and waters. Only when our children experience the beauty of the great outdoors will they understand the importance of preserving

and protecting these treasured places." – **Grace Lee, Executive Director, National Park Trust**

"We applaud Congress for approving the Every Kid Outdoors Act which allows fourth graders and their families to visit our parks, monuments and other public lands at no charge. This program is part of a vital national effort to break down barriers and connect more young Americans with wild places. Our public lands belong to all of us, and this Act helps kids to visit and discover America's unique outdoor wonders." – **Jamie Williams, President, The Wilderness Society**

"American Hiking Society applauds the bipartisan passage of the Every Kid Outdoors Act by the House of Representatives. Providing free public lands access to fourth graders across the country will introduce the next generation to outdoor recreation and foster lifelong service to and enjoyment of our most treasured natural resource." - **Kathryn Van Waes, Executive Director, American Hiking Society**

"Every child deserves the opportunity to experience nature and the outdoors through our nation's parks and open spaces. Thank you to the U.S. House of Representatives for putting us one step closer to making this a reality through the passage of the Every Kid Outdoors Act, which we proudly support." - **Barbara Tulipane, CAE, National Recreation and Park Association president and CEO**

"Whether a family outing, a school trip or a day at camp, time spent outdoors helps kids develop a sense of belonging in nature and an appreciation of the importance of preserving our lands and water. Our national parks and public lands are unrivaled as spaces where kids can connect with nature and grow their love of the outdoors. We applaud the passage of The Every Kid Outdoors Act which will enable youth-serving organizations like the Y to create powerful community partnerships focused on ensuring all kids, regardless of their circumstances, can experience the wonder of these national treasures." - **Kevin Washington, President and CEO, YMCA of the USA.**

"We are so pleased that the House of Representatives has approved the Every Kid Outdoors Act which will make Every Kid in a Park a permanent program. In its almost three years of existence, this program had opened the door to the natural beauty of the nation's parks for countless children, helping them to stay physically active and healthy. With the passage of this legislation, the admirable work of this wonderful public-private partnership can continue and provide opportunities for many more kids to savor the great outdoors through our national parks and public lands." - **Nancy Brown, CEO of the American Heart Association**

"The Trust for Public Land, which creates parks and protects land for people, is grateful for Congress' support of this vital program, which provides children the opportunity to experience our national treasures, often for the first time. Efforts like the *Every Kid Outdoors Act* to connect children with nature are critical to ensuring that the next generation will have access to parks

and green spaces within a 10-minute walk of home.” - **Kathy DeCoster, Vice President and Director of Federal Affairs, The Trust for Public Land**

“We enthusiastically support the Every Kid Outdoors Act and believe that connecting children to nature is critically important to their health and well-being, and to the future of our shared outdoor heritage. We commend the House of Representatives for putting us one step closer to ensuring that all children have the ability to benefit from nature in our National Parks and in their everyday lives. – **Sarah Milligan-Toffler, Executive Director, Children & Nature Network**

“Every kid should have access to the physical, emotional and social health benefits of getting outdoors - but today’s kids spend more time indoors than any generation in history. With the passage of the Every Kid in a Park Act, we can begin to overcome some of the structural barriers that keep kids from low-income families and communities of color from having access to outdoor play. We applaud Congress for its bipartisan leadership on this issue and encourage the U.S. Senate to join their colleagues in the House to ensure this program for generations to come.” - **Jackie Ostfeld, Director of Outdoors for Sierra Club and Founder and Chair of the Outdoors Alliance for Kids.**

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About the Outdoors Alliance for Kids (OAK): OAK is a national strategic partnership of organizations from diverse sectors with a common interest in connecting children, youth, and families with the outdoors. The members of OAK are brought together by the belief that the wellness of current and future generations, the health of our planet and communities, and the economy of the future depend on humans having a personal, direct, and life-long relationship with nature and the outdoors. OAK brings together nearly 100 businesses and organizations, representing more than 60 million individuals to address the growing divide between children, youth, and the natural world. For more information: www.outdoorsallianceforkids.org