



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

2012 BE OUTSIDE, IDAHO'S "UNPLUG AND GET OUTSIDE" WEEK

WHEREAS, today's youth are less active outdoors than past generations; and

WHEREAS, a growing body of research indicates that youth pay a high physical, mental and emotional price for inactivity, resulting in increased obesity, depression, anxiety, inattentiveness and diminished creativity; and

WHEREAS, responsible stewardship of the land and its creatures and bountiful resources is not possible without a connection to the natural world that promotes a strong sense of place; and

WHEREAS, Idaho recognizes the troubling trend of disconnection with nature, decrease of physical activity and dependence on electronic media, where youth spend on average 6½ each day playing video games and watching television, and are spending half as much time outdoors as they did just 20 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Idaho is committed to empowering its youth to lead healthy lives by reconnecting to the great outdoors and participating in outdoor activity through outdoor programs, unstructured play areas recreational activities, and environmental and natural resource education; and

WHEREAS, Idaho also is committed to engaging, educating and employing older youth and young adults, who will be the state's new generation of leaders, challenged with stewardship of our state's lands and resources for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, "Be Outside, Idaho" is a statewide partnership with state, federal and private partners, dedicated to the mission of "connecting children with nature in Idaho, from backyards to mountaintops"; and

WHEREAS, www.beoutsideidaho.org is a comprehensive resource that Idaho parents, educators, businesses, health professionals, interest groups, and citizens can use to post and access information about outdoor activities and events; and

WHEREAS, Idaho businesses, health professionals, educators and outdoor specialists are sponsoring "Unplug and Get Outside Week", a statewide opportunity for Idaho's families and youth to experience Idaho's great outdoors;

NOW THEREFORE, I C. L., "Butch" Otter, Governor of the State of Idaho do hereby proclaim the week of April 21st-28th to be

2012 BE OUTSIDE, IDAHO'S "UNPLUG AND GET OUTSIDE" WEEK

in Idaho.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 1st day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twelve and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-sixth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-second.

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

BEN YSURSA
SECRETARY OF STATE