

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: Our kids 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 for the adverse effects caused by our increasing inactivity; and

WHEREAS: Diverse Great Outdoors Month® events, including National Trails Day®, National Get Outdoors Day, the Great Outdoors Day of Service, the Great American Campout®, Kids to Parks Day™, and more, help 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 both large and growing nationally, exceeding \$605 billion in annual expenditures; and in our state, it is estimated at \$13.5 billion and supports some 171,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas's 52 state parks, seven national park units, two national forests, and more 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, water, 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 2017, as

GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH®

across the State, and I urge all citizens and visitors from other states and countries to explore and enjoy, protect and conserve 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 13th day of April, in the year of our Lord 2017.



Asa Hutchinson
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State