

ED OUT

ED OUT will launch in June 2010 and involve tens of thousands of students – and eventually tens of millions of students in a ***day of learning and fun at key public parks, refuges and forests.***

ED OUT involves dozens of partners – federal agencies including the National Park Service, the Forest Service and the Environmental Protection Agency, nonprofits including the American Recreation Coalition and the National Wildlife Federation, for-profit businesses including recreation equipment manufacturers and retailers, national, state and local education institutions and more. The lead educational institution is Prince William County Schools, nationally recognized for its application of technology and remote learning to the public school curriculum. ED OUT involves a key portion of the school calendar – the final week of school. It addresses the challenges of ***using time well after traditional testing and teaching have ended***, of ***preparing students to use the summer recess to prepare for success in the succeeding school year*** and of ***encouraging more physical activity to reduce the dangerous explosion in obesity among American youth.***

For one day, each child in grades K-11 will spend a day outdoors. For grades K-2, the day will involve outdoor activities in and immediately around the school campus, and will include planting of gardens and outdoor fun. For grades 3-11, the day will be spent at a nearby public recreation site, where the academic aspects will draw upon the knowledge of adjunct staff from corporations and agencies – and range from physical sciences to history to art to forensic medicine. While in the outdoors, students will also enjoy a healthy lunch and learn more about good eating practices and the connection between eating and activity levels – led by advice and experts from the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services.

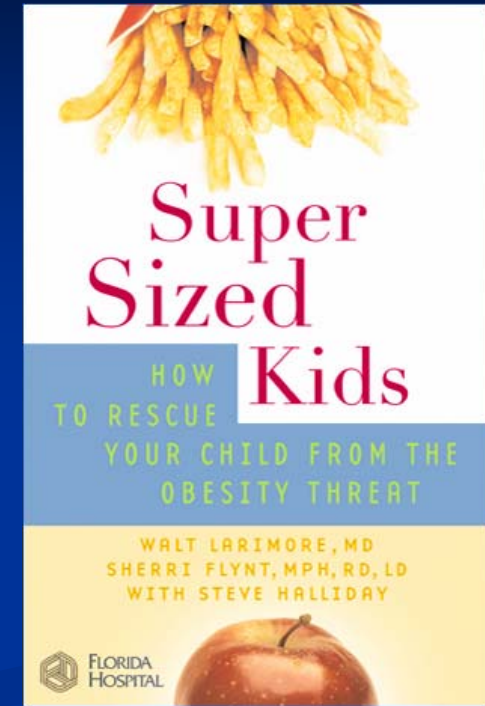
In addition, each participating student will be provided with an attractive booklet with (1) suggested summer break activities, readings and trips specifically addressing the academic program of the next grade, including suggested family trips and activities, (2) information about nearby summer fun at federal, state and local sites, and (3) special offers from recreation retailers and service providers.

Supporters of ED OUT will assist with the summer packets, with transportation and meal costs and more. In addition, many of the partners will host visits by Prince William County Schools students in June – likely sites include Prince William Forest Park (National Park Service), Manassas National Battlefield Park (National Park Service), Leesylvania State Park (Virginia State Parks), Occoquan Bay and Featherstone National Wildlife Refuges (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and Quantico Marine Base (Marines and FBI).

Three other pilot locations are under consideration in the Denver, Chicago and Seattle/Portland. For further information contact: Ben Swecker, Prince William County Schools, 800-609-2680/703-791-7328, sweckebd@pwcs.edu, or Derrick Crandall, American Recreation Coalition, 202-682-9530, dcrandall@funoutdoors.com.

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*A new outdoor education initiative
for Prince William County Public
Schools and beyond*



Public awareness of the threats posed by today's indoor, inactive lifestyles is high.

Concern is widespread.

An obesity epidemic – especially among America's youth – scares parents and healthcare interests alike. The projection that today's kids will have shorter lives than their parents – *because of their lifestyles* – is a rallying call for action.



Advances in health care have made extraordinary changes in the life expectancy and level of vitality of the average American. Still, according to the U. S. Surgeon General, a full one-half of all premature deaths are due to lifestyle and, therefore, preventable.

Designing Health Communication Campaigns: What Works? By
Thomas E. Backer, Everett M. Rogers, Pradeep Sopory

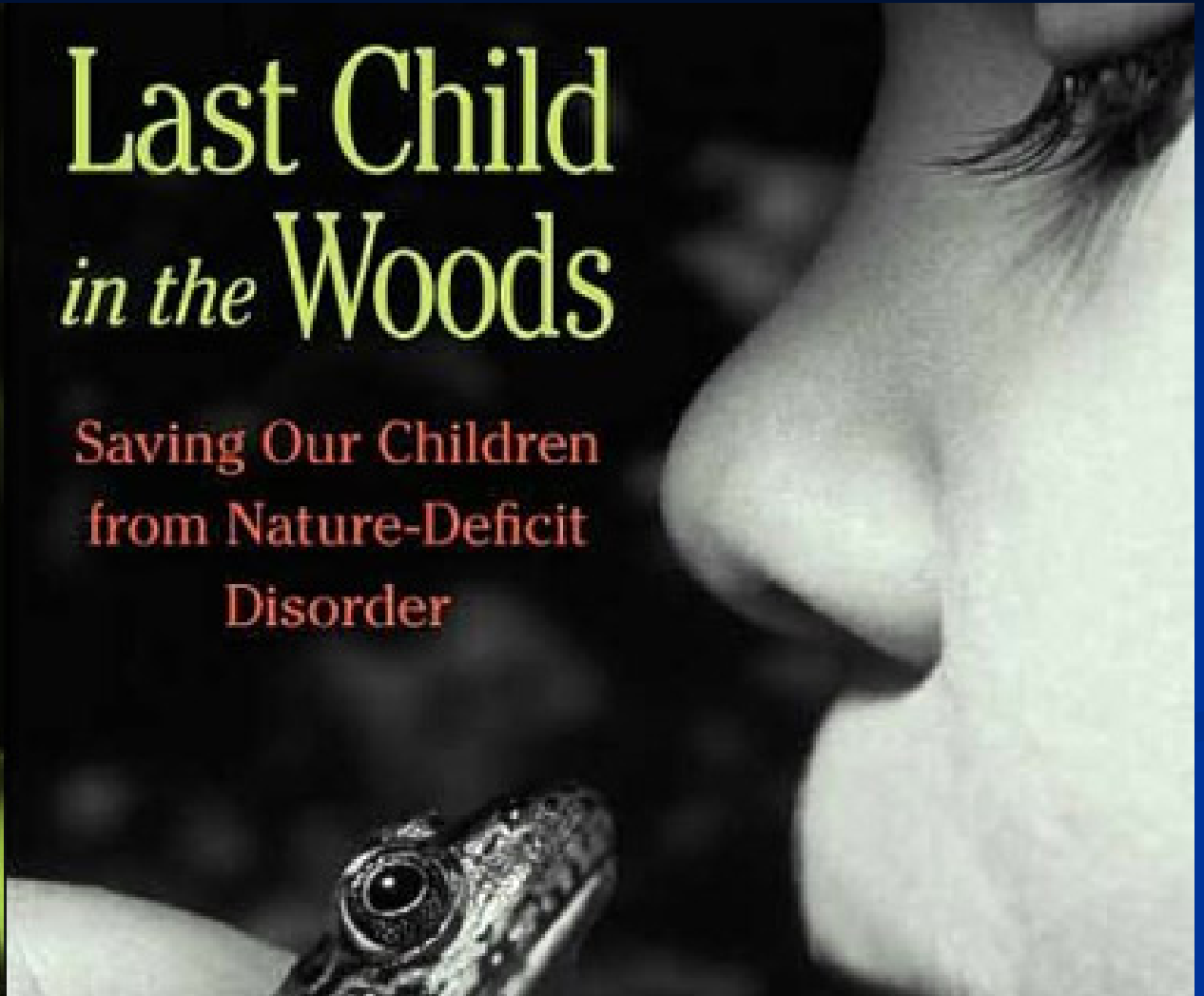
Studies also that tell us the average kid spends 6.5 hours every day sitting watching a screen, and that kids in America today are 6 times more likely to play a computer game as ride a bike.



Disorder

Last Child *in the* Woods

Saving Our Children
from Nature-Deficit
Disorder



We've read *Last Child in the Woods*
and now want to ***do something!***

Meanwhile,
during the last weeks of the school year...

The grades are in
The students are bored...
... or out of control!



Southern Miss Public Relations photo by Steve Rouse

And educators still need ways to occupy their students
while providing educational value!

The Solution?

A new educational partnership dedicated to outdoor educational activities that will meet the goals of keeping students occupied with worthwhile activities during the last weeks of school and energize them about the months of outdoor summer fun ahead...

ED OUT!

Prince William County Schools will partner with local outdoor agencies and organizations to offer outdoor educational experiences during the last few weeks of the school year

- Activities will be grade appropriate and relevant to required curriculum. Students will be taken to outdoor sites nearby their schools or simply to outdoor spaces on school grounds, depending on age level and course material
 - Kindergarten – 2nd grade activities will be school-based
 - 3rd – 9th grade activities will take place in nearby parks or public lands
 - 10th – 11th grade activities could potentially take place in regional outdoor places

Each day will include three important topic areas

■ Science

- science-based data collection, ecology, biology, etc.

■ Arts and Literature

- Relevant arts and crafts projects like building bird houses, painting nature murals, etc.
- Students could receive relevant reading lists and assignments to introduce them to SOLs for the upcoming school year

■ History and Culture

- Many outdoor sites in Virginia are rich in American history. Students should have hands on experiences with the history in their own backyards



The successes will be replicable

- The ED OUT initiative started by Prince William County Schools will create materials to provide support and assistance for other school districts wishing to recreate the ED OUT in their communities
- Participants will be able to share success stories and suggestions with other school districts

Potential Partners

- American Federation of Teachers
- American Recreation Coalition
- Bass Pro Shop
- Bureau of Land Management
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Kagan Publishing
- Living Classrooms of the National Capital Region
- National Association of Teachers of Health
- National Education Association
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Park Service
- National School Boards Association
- National Science Foundation
- National Science Teachers Association
- National Wildlife Federation
- Project Learning Tree
- REI
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

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