



WHEREAS, Illinois is blessed with outstanding opportunities for safe and healthy fun in the great outdoors, enjoying our natural splendors in the company of family and friends; and,

WHEREAS, children spend an average of 10 hours each day in front of a screen, and outdoor activity is considered by many leading health organizations as a remedy to the adverse effects of inactivity; and,

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month events including National Trails Day, National Get Outdoors Day, the Great Outdoors Month National Day of Service, the Great American Campout, and Kids to Parks Day to connect citizens of all ages to healthy, fun outdoor activities; and,

WHEREAS, other events during Great Outdoors Month such as National Fishing and Boating Week and National Marina Day provide all of us, especially our children, with exciting opportunities for recreation on the great waters of our state; and,

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month promotes activities including biking, swimming, hiking, paddling, fishing, hunting, and boating, and helps our children enjoy the physical, mental, and educational benefits of outdoor recreation; and,

WHEREAS, enjoyment of the great outdoors allows us to celebrate the commitment of our state to conserve and protect our air, our water, our wildlife, and our lands and to contribute to conservation efforts; and,

WHEREAS, the economic impact of outdoor recreation is both large and growing nationally, exceeding \$650 billion in annual expenditures; and,

WHEREAS, in our state, outdoor recreation generates an estimated \$35.9 billion and supports approximately 325,000 jobs; and,

WHEREAS, many of our important cultural and historic events and traditions are linked to places in our state which are part of national, state, and local park systems; and,

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month allows us to celebrate the partnership of federal, state, and local agencies, the recreation and tourism industry, and recreationists, combining to makes outdoor recreation opportunities available, and create new features such as improved trails through the Recreational Trails Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund;

*THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim June 2017 as **GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH** in Illinois and urge all citizens and visitors from other states and countries to explore, enjoy, protect, and conserve Illinois' great outdoors.*

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-SECOND day of MAY, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
SEVENTEEN, and of the State of Illinois,
one hundred and NINETY-NINTH.

Deese White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR