



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Great Outdoors Month

WHEREAS, Rhode Island is blessed with outstanding opportunities for safe and healthy fun in the Great Outdoors, and we enjoy our natural splendors in the company of family and old and new friends; and

WHEREAS, our kids today spend an average of ten hours each day in front of screens, and Rhode Island helped introduce its youth to the Great Outdoors and to all the healthy, active, and outdoor fun it offers through events such as Capital Campouts and more in 2016; 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 Park Day, and more, help 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, National Marina Day, and Get Into Your Sanctuary Day, 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 large and growing both nationally, exceeding \$650 billion in annual expenditures, and in our state, where it is estimated at \$3.3 billion and supports some 36,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island's nine state parks, two national park units, and other parks attract millions of visitors each year and reflect every facet of our state's rich natural and cultural history; and

WHEREAS, enjoyment of our Great Outdoors allows us to celebrate our state's commitment to conserving and protecting our air, our water, our wildlife, and our lands and to contributing 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 that makes outdoor recreation opportunities available and that adds new and needed features, such as improved trails through the Recreational Trails Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim June 2017 as: ***Great Outdoors Month*** in the state and encourage all citizens and visitors from other states and countries to explore and enjoy, protect, and conserve Rhode Island's Great Outdoors.



Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State

Given under my hand and the great seal of
the State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations,
this 20 day of April, 2017

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor