



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee 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**, biking, swimming, hiking, climbing, paddling, fishing, hunting, boating and many more activities help us enjoy the physically and mentally healthful 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 contribute to conservation efforts through various licenses, taxes and fees; and

**WHEREAS**, recreationists are among the most active volunteers in Tennessee, working on trails and in visitor centers and campgrounds, on ski slopes and removing invasive species, organizing outdoor programs and events and restoring habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, Great Outdoors Month includes diverse events designed to connect all of us to the outdoors, and especially our children and youth, including National Trails Day, National Fishing and Boating Week, Welcome to the Water on National Marina Day, National Get Outdoors Day, the Great American Backyard Campout and more; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic impact of outdoor recreation is both large and growing nationally, exceeding \$650 billion in annual expenditures, and in our state, where it is estimated at \$40.5 million and supports some 1450 jobs; 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**, 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, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of June, 2017 as

*Great Outdoors Month*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this eighteenth day of April, 2017.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Scott Bergitt*

Secretary of State