

DRAFT COLORADO KIDS OUTDOORS BILL FACT SHEET

Title – “Colorado Kids Outdoors Grant Program”

Sponsors – Scanlan, Gibbs

Statement of the issue/problem under current law

- There is a growing urgency to reconnect kids to the outdoors, both nationally and in Colorado.
- The benefits of spending time outdoors are well-known including improved physical and mental health and well-being and development of a conservation ethic.
- Studies indicate access to the outdoors and nature improves concentration and impulse control, helps with emotional coping and stress reduction, develops creativity, reduces symptoms of ADD and ADHD, increases motor coordination and develops a conservation ethic.
- Children who spend time outdoors will also be more likely to become stewards of Colorado’s public lands and participate in outdoor recreation later in life.
- Outdoor recreation is an integral component of Colorado’s heritage and economy, generating an estimated \$10 - \$15 billion annually in economic activity.

Explanation of how the bill addresses this problem

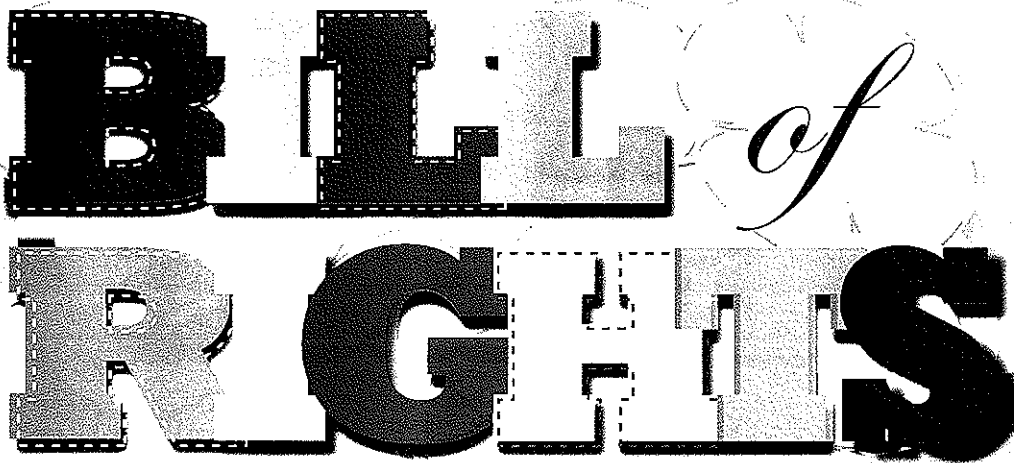
- Creates CO kids outdoors grant program in Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR).
 - For programs that allow CO youth to participate in outdoor activities.
 - Including but not limited to programs that emphasize the environment and experiential, field-based learning.
 - Advisory council will assist the executive director of DNR in reviewing the applications and creating criteria.
 - Funded through gifts, grants, and donations.
 - Creates outdoor summer jobs for kids through existing funds
- Directs the department of education to create and the state board of education to adopt a state plan for environmental literacy.
 - Designed to strengthen environmental literacy and provide opportunities for professional development in environmental education to educators
 - Prepares the state to be eligible for the possibility of federal funds from No Child Left Inside legislation introduced this year.
 - Environmental education fund will be set up to receive any moneys received for creating the state plan. Plan will not be created or adopted until there are sufficient funds as determined by CDE.

Supporters

- Betty Ford Alpine Gardens
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Chaffee County
- Boy Scouts of America, Mesa Verde District
- Breckenridge Nordic/Frisco Nordic
- Choose Outdoors
- Coalition to Advance Environmental Literacy in Colorado (represents 88,000 individuals across Colorado)
- Colorado Alliance of Environmental Educators (CAEE)
- Colorado Children's Campaign
- Colorado Kids Outdoors Coalition
- Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA)
- Colorado Youth Outdoors
- Cottonwood Institute (Denver, Boulder, Jefferson, Arapahoe, Douglass Counties)
- Denver Parks & Recreation
- Environmental Learning for Kids (Denver, Adams, and Arapahoe Counties)
- Family Resource Center (Sterling)
- Fountain Creek Water Sentinels (Pueblo)
- Get Outdoors And Learn Stuff (GOALS)
- Girl Scouts of Colorado
- Gore Range Natural Science School
- Groundwork Denver
- Healthy Lifestyle La Plata Coalition, a LiveWell Colorado Community
- Jellystone Park at Larkspur – Larkspur
- Keystone Science School
- Loveland youth Gardeners
- Mountain Park Environmental Center (Pueblo)
- Mountain Studies Institute (SW Colorado)
- National Wildlife Federation
- Outward Bound
- Pikes Peak Group of Sierra Club
- San Juan Mountains Association (La Plata, Montezuma, Dolores, Archuleta Counties)
- Ski Country USA
- SOS Outreach
- The Outdoor Experience – Larkspur
- Vail Nature Center
- Vail Recreation District
- Vail Resorts
- William Findlay, MD (pediatrician with Western Colorado Pediatrics in Grand Junction)
- Yamatika (Routt and Moffat Counties)

COLORADO KIDS' OUTDOOR

BILL *of* RIGHTS



Before they grow up

Colorado kids should have the opportunity to:

- 1 Camp out under the stars.
- 2 Follow a trail, ride it or walk it, and be respectful of everyone's right to use the trail.
- 3 Play in a creek or river: fish, wade, paddle, or skip a stone.
- 4 Experience the wonders of Colorado's four seasons: wildflowers, abundant sunshine, the changing aspen leaves, and fresh powder snow.
- 5 Visit a working farm or ranch.
- 6 Enjoy the view from the top of a mountain.
- 7 Identify Colorado's official state wildlife and plants in their natural habitat.
- 8 Explore one of the dozens of local, state, and national parks in Colorado.
- 9 Play in the dirt and learn about the world from the ground up.

Plant a seed for other Colorado kids to enjoy in the future.



Developed by Colorado's youth and the Office of Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien



COLORADO AL AIRE LIBRE PARA NIÑOS

CARTA *de* DERECHOS

Antes de ser adultos

Todos los niños de Colorado deben tener la oportunidad de:

- 1 Acampar al aire libre bajo las estrellas.
- 2 Andar por una vereda, a pie, a caballo o en bicicleta, y respetar el derecho de todos de usarla.
- 3 Jugar en un arroyo o un río: pescar, caminar en él, chapotear o aventar piedritas.
- 4 Presenciar las maravillas de las cuatro estaciones en Colorado: las flores silvestres, el abundante sol, las hojas cambiantes de los álamos, y la nieve acabada de caer.
- 5 Visitar una granja o un rancho productores.
- 6 Disfrutar la vista desde lo alto de una montaña.
- 7 Identificar la mascota y flor oficial del estado en su hábitat natural.
- 8 Explorar alguno de las docenas de parques locales, estatales o nacionales en Colorado.
- 9 Jugar en la tierra y aprender sobre el mundo del suelo hacia arriba.
Plantar una semilla para que otros niños en el futuro disfruten también.

