



national **get outdoors day** denvercoloradojune.13.2009.denvercitypark

Background

In the spring of 2008 the Forest Service (FS) entered into a national challenge cost share agreement with the American Recreation Coalition (ARC) to launch National Get Outdoors Day (GO-Day). ARC and the FS each pledged \$100,000.00 to initiate this new annual event to encourage healthy, active outdoor fun with the primary goals of the day being reaching first-time visitors to public lands and reconnecting our youth to the great outdoors.

The Rocky Mountain Region, working closely with over 50 organizations hosted one of these inaugural events at Sloan's Lake Park in North Denver on June 14, 2008. Approximately 2,500 people participated in activities including rock climbing, canoeing, mountain biking and a multitude of junior ranger activities.

Based upon the success of Denver's initial event and the enthusiasm of the many partnering organizations, the Denver partners began organizing the 2009 National Get Outdoors Day event in October of 2008. On October 30, Denver Parks and Recreation submitted the necessary permits to secure Denver City Park as an event location for June 13, 2009. In late February of 2009, the Washington Office and the American Recreation Coalition sent out the site nomination information for a 2009 event. Denver submitted the forms at that point to become an "official site."

In addition to the official GO-Day sites, ARC and the FS are encouraging Forests, Districts and partners to host EChO events. These events may take the form of fishing days, wildflower hikes etc. and can take place any time during the summer season of 2009. Ideally they would be advertised during the official GO-Day event to encourage families to take the next step and visit their National Forests Grasslands, National Parks, City, County and State Parks.

Denver City Park June 13, 2009

The National Get Outdoors Day Denver event is scheduled to begin at 9:00 am and conclude at 3:30pm on Saturday, June 13, 2009. Regional web address: www.fs.fed.us/r2/go-day. National website: www.nationalgetoutdoorsday.org

Event day goals:

- This event will encourage kids and their families to make healthy lifestyle choices and to get active in the great outdoors. *Specific emphasis will be placed on outreach to under-served and minority segments of our population that now rarely visit and benefit from our network of public lands and waters.*
- This event will engage new and existing partners in connecting people, especially kids, to the outdoors. *National Get Outdoors Day* will be shaped and carried out by a broad and diverse coalition of public and private organizations.
- This event will focus on healthy lifestyle choices, nature based outdoor activities, education and programs/organizations that provide ongoing opportunities for people to connect to the outdoors.
- The Denver event is planning on an estimated 5,000 attendees for June 13, 2009.

Event Planning:

The planning team and its fourteen subcommittees have formed to design and implement a robust event to introduce 5,000 people to the outdoors. Subcommittees include: Program, Get Into the Outdoors, Take a Family Fishing, Green Village, Health Zone, Jr. Ranger Camp, Communications, Stage Activities, Volunteers, Food, Logistics, VIP Coordination, Outreach and Donations.

Event Program and Activity Zones:

- **Orientation Station**
The orientation station is the first stop for the day's activities. Volunteers will sign in and be briefed on assignments. Guests will receive the site map and schedule of events and sign waivers to participate in climbing, mountain biking and canoeing.
- **Outdoor Connections**
Here, kids and their families can learn about those organizations that can help facilitate a life long connection the outdoors. Kids can learn about scouting and volunteering as well as the many opportunities within the network of public lands.
- **Get into the Outdoors**
This zone will provide active outdoor recreation opportunities such as: mountain biking, rock climbing, canoeing, skiing, birding, volksmarch (5k and 10k) and a low ropes challenge course.
- **Take a Family Fishing** Take a Family Fishing or TAFF chose to join National Get Outdoors Day for 2009. The Colorado Division of Wildlife will

stock Ferril Lake within City Park and provide fishing opportunities for up to 500 children. Kids will learn how to fish and will take home a fishing rod.

- **Junior Ranger Camp and Woodsy’s Wood**

The Junior Ranger Camp will provide a passport guided experience for young children. They will learn about their natural environment, go geocaching, and build bird houses and bat boxes. Throughout the day those kids who complete their passport will be sworn in as Junior Rangers.

- **Cultural Connections**

The cultural connections zone will showcase a number of cultures who have made significant contributions to the State of Colorado. Participants that day can learn more about our shared Tribal Heritage, experience the beautiful legacy of Dragon boats and more.

- **The Green Village**

In the green village guests will learn about those things they can do in their own homes, yards and communities to live more sustainably and steward the environment.

- **The Health Zone**

The health zone will showcase ways to get fit outside as well as address important health issues such skin cancer, diabetes and more.

Planning, Design and Implementation: *Who’s been at the table?*

Federal

- US Forest Service
- US Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station
- National Resource Conservation Service
- National Park Service
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin.
- Health and Human Services
- Head Start
- Environmental Protection Agency
- US Geological Survey
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- Operation Military Kids
- National Guard/Colorado Army
- Presidents Council on Physical Fitness/Colorado
- USDA Food and Nutrition Services

State

- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Colorado State Parks
- Lt. Governor’s Office
- Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)
- Colorado Department of Health and Environment
- COPAN - CDPHE

City & County

- City of Denver: Denver Parks and Recreation
- City of Aurora: Aurora Parks and Open Space
- City of Lakewood
- Jefferson County, Lookout Mountain Nature Center
- Denver Water
- Denver Animal Care and Control
- Denver Health Care management
- Denver Public Health

For Profit

- Vail Resorts
- REI
- Wahoo
- Lincoln Financial Media
- Kaiser Permanente
- CI International
- ABC Radio Disney
- Chevo Studios
- The Home Depot
- Eagle Claw
- Avid 4 Adventure
- Rocky Mountain Sunscreen
- Sun Company
- System 2
- Your True Nature

Non Profit

- Alpine Rescue Team
- Alpino Mountain Sports Foundation
- American Diabetes Association and Por tu la familia
- American Heart Association
- American Red Cross
- Audubon Society of Greater Denver
- Bicycle Colorado
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado
- Big City Mountaineers
- Bike Denver and Park Hill Bike Depot
- Bluff Lake Nature Center
- Boulder History Museum/University of Colorado Natural History Museum
- Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District
- CAEE
- CARENET Americorps
- Casa de la Esperanza
- Celebra La Ciencia
- Choose Outdoors
- CityWILD
- COHVCO Foundation/Stay the Trail
- Colorado High Country Hikers
- Wonderful Outdoor World

- American Volkssport Association
- Colorado Mountain Bike Association
- Colorado Mountain Club
- Colorado Skin Cancer Coalition
- Colorado Youth Corps Association
- Continental Divide Trail Alliance
- Denver Botanic Gardens
- Denver Museum of Nature and Science
- Denver Zoo
- Dragon Boat Festival
- Environmental Learning for Kids
- Front Range Earthforce
- Gates Camp/Boys and Girls Clubs
- Girl Scouts of Colorado
- James P. Beckwourth Mountain Club
- Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics
- Leave No Trace
- Mile High Youth Corps
- National Ski Areas Association
- National Wildlife Federation
- Outward Bound
- Outdoor Lab Foundation
- Park Hill Bike Depot
- Plains Conservation Center
- Responsible Recreation Foundation
- Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
- Rocky Mountain MS Center, Metro State College
- Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership
- Snow Sports Outreach Society
- Take a Family Fishing
- The Women's Wilderness Institute
- Thorne Ecological Institute
- Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado
- Wild Connections
- Wilderness Education Survival Training

The above list is not exhaustive. It does provide a picture of those organizations that have come to the table to learn, plan and implement the 2009 event. Not all organizations will be represented at the Denver event; however, most have provided input along the way. It is anticipated that 100 organizations will be participating that day presenting activities and providing information to the public.

EChO Events and Other Regional GO-Day Activities

Colorado:

Pineridge Natural Area
Fort Collins, CO
Megan Greer, City Recreation Department
mgreer@fcgov.com

South Dakota

Steamboat Park
Pierre, SD
Ami Garrigan, Natural Resource Specialist, US Army Corps of Engineers

Wyoming

Curt Gowdy State Park
Cheyenne, WY
Paul Gritte, Wyoming State Park, Historic Sites and Trails

LaBonte Canyon
Douglas, WY
Tim Byer, Wildlife Biologist, USFS, Douglas RD

Note that as of 4.27.2009 outreach for EChO Events has not taken place, however, the regional website for GO-Day will have a year long calendar of events posted.

WANTED: Kids looking for exciting outdoor adventures

Skiing, Rock Climbing, Mountain Biking and more in downtown Denver? Free event brings outdoor fun right to City Park

The state of Colorado is best known for its multitude of options for outdoor adventure – from short hiking trips on the Front Range to wilderness backpacking in its remote mountains. But it appears the kids who live in the Centennial State are not finding their entertainment on the trails. Studies show that over the past 20 years, the time kids spend outside has fallen by fifty percent, and the time they spend plugged into electronic media each day has grown to more than six hours. The rate of obesity among adolescents over the same period has more than tripled.

Exposing kids of all ages to different and unique ways they can find exciting entertainment outside their front doors will have a direct impact to helping keep them active and physically fit. And, of equal importance for the state's environment, it will renew their interest in the great outdoors. So, a coalition of public land management agencies, outdoor recreation and education groups are bringing a taste of adventure and excitement to downtown Denver. Reconnecting kids of every age group to nature and a healthier way of life, National Get Outdoors Day will take place in city park and offer skiing in the summer, fishing and canoeing, rock climbing, mountain biking and much more.

WHAT: Thousands of Colorado kids and families will learn ways to “GET OUTDOORS” at the second annual NATIONAL GET OUTDOORS DAY, a free event open to the public.

The action-packed day features:

- A Climbing Wall
- Wildlife Tracking
- Mountain Biking
- “How-To” Camping Demonstration
- Canoeing and Kayaking
- Junior Ranger Camp
- Skiing in the Park
- Geo-caching
- Fishing
- Sustainable Living Village
- Low Ropes Course
- Meet Smokey Bear
- Stage Activities
- Volkssport 5K/10K
- Tips for planning outdoor adventures
- Learn about Geocaching
- The President's Physical Fitness Challenge

Plus music, food, prizes and fun!

WHO: National Get Outdoors Day is co-sponsored by the US Forest Service and the American Recreation Coalition. In addition, more than 80 Community Partners, including City, State, and Federal Government agencies, as well as non-profit organizations and local businesses have donated their time, energy and resources towards making this event a success.

Come one; come all, to this free event for anyone who is interested in learning new ways to be active outdoors.

WHEN: 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Saturday, June 13, 2009

WHERE: Denver's City Park
E 17th Ave, Denver, CO

WHY:

- The challenges of climate change, water and environmental conservation will be some of the most pressing issues facing our children and future generations. The important connection between being outdoors and caring for nature is being lost.
- National Get Outdoors Day aims to help kids reconnect with nature and instill in them a sense of stewardship for the land, so that they will recognize the importance of preserving it for generations to come.
- The best way to reconnect kids with nature is by exposing them to the multitude of exciting outdoor activities that can be pursued year-round in Colorado.
- As the rate of childhood obesity and learning disorders skyrockets, an increasing body of research shows the health and educational benefits of learning and playing in natural settings. By getting kids involved in outdoor adventure activities, they become better learners, more active and physically fit.
- Bringing these activities into the city gives many Denver urban youth the opportunity to experience a variety of outdoor activities that they may not have access to otherwise.

For more information please visit:

www.fs.fed.us/r2/go-day (Denver Event)

www.nationalgetoutdoorsday.org (National Site)

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