

Background

In support of the work SNC does to meet its programmatic goal of increasing opportunities for recreation and tourism in the Region, the SNC is a member of, and actively participates on the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks, and Tourism (Roundtable). The Roundtable was founded in 1998 to encourage cooperation between public and private entities involved and interested in outdoor recreation, public lands and tourism in California.

The Round table's membership includes recreation, parks and tourism leaders from local, state and federal governmental organizations, private enterprises, user groups, environmental groups, educational institutions and the public.

Roundtable members have provided input on the recent update of the SNC Strategic Plan, and have been helpful in disseminating information and supporting the Sierra Nevada Geotourism MapGuide Project, the Great Sierra River Cleanup, and Sierra Day in the Capitol.

Current Status

With recent concerns about youth detachment from outdoor activities, lack of physical exercise and increased health risks, the Roundtable created the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (CCOBR) for the purpose of recommending a fundamental list of experiences that every child in California would benefit from experiencing, before entering high school.

Numerous studies document that children who do these things are healthier, do better in school, have better social skills and self-image, and lead more fulfilled lives. The CCOBR includes the following:

1. Play in a safe place
2. Explore nature
3. Learn to swim
4. Go fishing
5. Follow a trail
6. Camp under the stars
7. Ride a bike
8. Go boating
9. Connect with the past
10. Plant a seed

The Roundtable is currently seeking resolutions of support for the CCOBR from all sectors across the state to help elevate the importance of providing opportunities and places where children can experience and appreciate California's rich outdoor resources.

The mission and the programs of the SNC are strongly aligned with the purposes of the CCOBR. A resolution by the Board in support of the CCOBR would represent a positive step towards raising awareness in the Region may serve as a model for additional support. SNC staff has prepared a Resolution of Support for the Board to consider.

Next Steps

If the Board supports passing the proposed Resolution in support of the CCOBR, staff would communicate via e-mail and direct conversations, the action to all governments and partner organizations in the Region. Staff would also like to make relevant information available to them to consider adopting similar resolutions.

Recommendation

SNC staff recommends the Board adopt SNC Resolution 2012-001 in support of the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights and direct staff to communicate this action to all partner organization and governments in the Sierra Nevada Region and the opportunity to also consider adopting similar resolutions.



*Resolution No. 2012-001
Support for the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights
Adopted by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Governing Board
June 7, 2012*



Whereas, the Governing Board of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy recognizes the significant concern about youth detachment from the outdoors, lack of physical exercise and the increased health risks associated with childhood obesity; and

Whereas, Governing Board of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy recognizes that unstructured play in the great outdoors can be a wonderful experience for people of all ages, and especially for our youth; and

Whereas, participating in outdoor activities is not only enjoyable, but also develops an appreciation of California's unique environment; and

Whereas, the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism, a volunteer consortium of public and private organizations has created the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights; and

Whereas, the Bill of Rights provides that youth between the ages of four and fourteen should have the opportunity to:

- *Play in a safe place*
- *Explore nature*
- *Learn to swim*
- *Go fishing*
- *Follow a trail*
- *Camp under the stars*
- *Ride a bike*
- *Go boating*
- *Connect with the past*
- *Plant a seed*

Whereas, numerous studies document that children who participate in these outdoor recreation activities are healthier, do better in school, have better social skills and self image, and lead more fulfilled lives; and

Whereas, the Governing Board of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is committed to these goals;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Governing Board of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy supports and endorses the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights as a guideline for parents, guardians, parks, communities, health professionals, private enterprises and other entities to encourage children to experience each of the activities listed by the completion of their 14th year. The Governing Board of Sierra Nevada Conservancy will promote the efforts of the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights with our partners throughout the Sierra Nevada Region.

Board Chair, BJ Kirwan

*Attest: Theresa Burgess
Board Liaison*
