The California Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights

California Parks Conference –2012

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Who We Are

The California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism 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 Roundtable’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.

Membership
Roundtable Members

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Topics -

- Why is this topic important
- National Movements
- The California Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights
- How you can use this within your organization
Then

Now
Why a disconnect from nature?

- Immersed in technology
- Time too structured
- Lack of access to natural areas
- Criminalization of play
▪ Parental fear
Consequences

- Poor health – Childhood obesity and Type 2 Diabetes
- Lack of connection and understanding of natural world
- Increased psychological stress
Physical well-being - HEALTH!
A more well-balanced & less stressed child
Unstructured Play ?
The development of intra- and interpersonal skills
Increased cognitive functioning
An increased sense of connection to the natural world ....
Stewardship!
WHAT'S MISSING FROM THIS PARK?

KIDS!
California Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights
Mission:
To Encourage California’s Children to Participate in Outdoor Recreation Activities and Discover Their Heritage

Objective:
That every child in California, by the completion of their 14th year, have the opportunity to experience each of the activities listed within the California Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights.
Every Kid’s Life List

To Encourage Kids
To Go Outdoors....

- Make It Memorable
- Make It Fun
- Involve the Family/Community
- Involve All Recreation Providers

Make it Adaptable
“healing the broken bond between our young and nature is in our self-interest...”
Play In A Safe Place
Learn To Swim
Go Fishing
Follow A Trail
Camp Under The Stars
Ride a Bike
Go Boating
Connect With The Past
Plant a Seed
Unstructured Play
COBR in Action....
Partnerships in Action...
How Can YOU Use This Tool
Potential Partnerships

- Public health department
- Private health providers
- Retailers
- Grocery stores
- Foster grandparents
- Conservation corps
- Community service – high schools
COBR Implementation

- Develop regional web-based directory of opportunities
- Gain private industry support – retailer incentives
- Identify one community group/agency responsible for each activity
- Designate one weekend per month for each activity or all 10 in one weekend
- Community/staff sessions brainstorm achievement of each activity
- Family events, library distribution, free fishing day, community campout...