



## **Proclamation** **Maryland Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights**

- WHEREAS,** Children across the globe are losing their connection with our natural world, an alienation that threatens their health, their quality of life, their readiness for future job opportunities and the future of our natural resources;
- WHEREAS,** Children who spend frequent time outdoors enjoying unstructured and structured activity experience enhanced use of the senses, fewer attention difficulties and decreased rates of physical and emotional illness and obesity;
- WHEREAS,** Spending frequent time outdoors is also the best way to develop a connection to nature and the foundation on which to build an environmental stewardship ethic;
- WHEREAS,** The State of Maryland is committed to ensuring all children have the opportunity to connect with nature at an early age and build upon that connection throughout their developing years;

### **NOW, THEREFORE,**

I MARTIN O'MALLEY GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSITUTION AND THE LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIM THAT EVERY MARYLAND CHILD SHALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO...

- Discover & connect with their natural world.
- Play & learn outdoors.
- Splash & swim in the water.
- Camp under the stars.
- Follow a trail.
- Catch a fish.
- Watch wildlife.
- Explore wild places close to home.
- Celebrate their culture & heritage.
- Share nature with a great mentor or teacher.