

Coalition Building for Children & Nature Network and the US Play Coalition

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What is the Children & Nature Network?

- Mission: to give every child in every community a wide range of opportunities to experience nature directly, reconnecting our children with nature's joys and lessons, its profound physical and mental bounty.
- Network to support people and organizations nationally and internationally to reconnect children with nature.
- Links researchers, educators, organizations and individuals.

What is the Children & Nature Network?

- Arose out of author Richard Louv's landmark book: *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder*
- Richard Louv serves as Chairman of the Board
 - I am one of the newest member to the Board
 - Meeting Richard Louv as Director NPS
 - Junior Ranger Program & Florida State Parks
- Membership: Free!
 - Membership includes resources to get our youth back outside!

What does Children & Nature Network do?

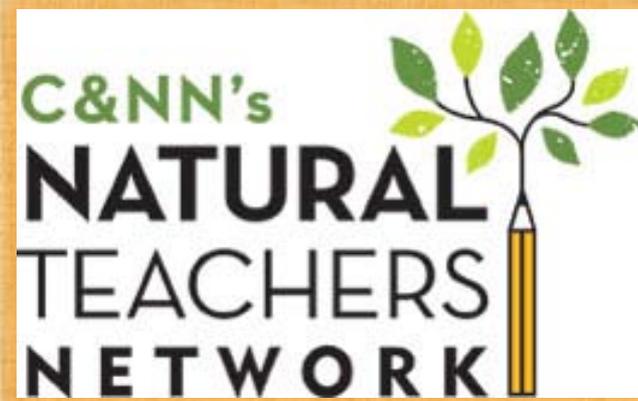
– Natural Families

- Resources are available to help inspire, inform and support Nature Clubs for Families with ideas, activities, tips and tools.
- Partnership with Nature Rocks!



– Natural Teachers

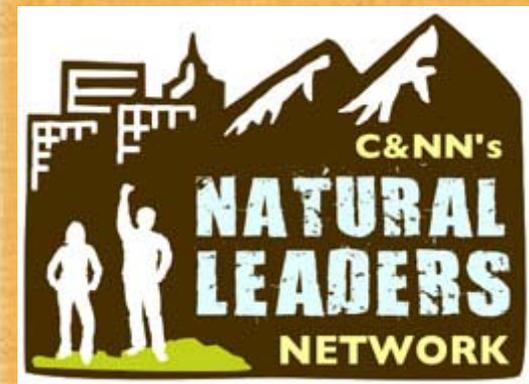
- Network for teachers to share ideas, successes, and challenges in taking students outside
- Take the pledge!



What does Children & Nature Network do?

– Natural Leaders

- Empowers a worldwide youth movement to strengthen the bond between children and nature.



– Grassroots Organizing

- To date, over sixty regions that have either launched or are assembling grassroots campaigns to connect children with nature.



What's next for Children & Nature Network?

- Working on strategic plan
- Funding (non-profit)
- Active with First lady's Let's Move Outside
- Helped create the Outdoor Alliance for Kids



- Grassroots Organizing:



US Play Coalition

- The US PLAY Coalition: A Partnership to Promote the Value of Play throughout Life is made up of individuals who and organizations that recognize play as a valuable and necessary part of a healthy and productive life.



US Play Coalition

- A steering committee with Dr. Brett Wright and myself as Chairs formed the US Play Coalition to be initially housed at Clemson University but representing an international focus on Play.
- A source of research, related news articles, upcoming events, legislative actions, success stories, and much more
- Website is a gathering point where anyone interested in knowing something about play will go to. The website will link visitors to other organizations and individuals that are focused on promoting play.

The Summit on the Value of Play

- Call to Action

- Five Goals/Committees:

1. Build a coalition to advance this movement
2. Gather research in support of play and its importance
3. Communicate the message on a broad basis to the general public
4. Work with local, state and national governments to create policy in support of play
5. Provide guidelines to support the development of playful communities

The Conference on the Value of Play

- **February 6-9, 2011**
- Madren Conference Center, Clemson University
- Focus on education, health, and parks and recreation
- Honorary Program Chair is Dr. Joe Frost, Emeritus professor, University of Texas
- Dr. Joe Frost and play worker Penny Wilson from England will be the keynote speakers
- Three \$3,000 grants will be awarded to play researchers
- Other members of the steering committee include:
 - Co-Chairs: Dr. Brett Wright, Fran Mainella
 - Committee: Dr. Dee Stegelin, Tom Norquist, Dr. Bob Becker, Dan Hendy, Eric O'Brien, Jackie Epping, Jodie Adams, Joel Agate, Ken Kutska, Larry Allen, Rich Dolesh, Teri Hendy, Tom Kalousek

It's Your Time to Lead!

- US Play Coalition—Join!
- Attend the Conference on the Value of Play
- Involvement of play in all your programs
- Use our list of benefits and facts on play and nature to help you
- Together we can bring play back to everyone's lives!



Contact

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