



Helena, Montana





Reducing Barriers to Outdoor Participation

- **Creating partnerships with outdoor clubs, businesses, senior citizens and schools to develop situations where the children's ownership is established**
- **Address the issue of liability for non-profit organizations, businesses and agencies who want to take kids outdoors. (May need legislation)**
- **Create a new kind of hero -- looking for a celebrity such as "Les Stroud-Survivor Man" to serve as a role model to get him to jumpstart interest for kids. Make it "cool" and bring/join with Native American representation.**



Reducing Barriers to Outdoor Participation

- **Using schools to create ownership with children by encouraging school districts to integrate the outdoors with required curriculum.**
- **Intercepting children at places where they already are and helping those organizations build-in an outdoor component.**



Raising Healthy Children

- Parent Education on 'Real' Risks through mentoring, 'risk workshops'
- Provide 'outdoor mentoring' on all levels (e.g., family to family, kid to kid, grandparent to child)
- Statewide and local 'Social Marketing' campaign
- Advocacy at the federal, state and local levels to make environmental and policy changes (e.g. open space, community design, attend your city council meetings)



Growing the Movement

- Create a Governor's Council On Children & Nature; with Regional Interests
- Statewide Campaign: "Have you showed your child the last best place?"
- State Standards for Nature and Service Learning
- Funding for Nature & Service Learning



Listening to Our Youth

- Listen to Youth. How do they want to spend their time outdoors? Every age is different.
- Collaborate with Resources. Don't reinvent the wheel.
- Building of Community/Support
 - Cultural (increase cool factor, ie: peer to peer)
 - Physical (infrastructure)



Building Healthy Environments

- Design needs to be: engaging, inviting
- Overcome Barriers: access, transportation, connectivity, safety (real vs. perceived)
- Call to Action: funding, education (benefits and realities), access for all, mentorship
- Don't anticipate- Participate!



Integrating Nature in Education

- On-line clearinghouse for local opportunities (MSTA, MEEA)
- Create buy-in with school, teachers, community, businesses, land managers for environmental education
- Contact person(s) that focuses mainly on field experience and implementation
 - Regional centers for professional development



Integrating Nature into Education

- Using your native landscape at your facility to teach and also bring the outdoors inside
- Utilizing state & federal funding to support field experiences, teacher education programs, professional development



Montana Parks and Recreation
Information is posted at:

www.mtrpa.info



Do it Yourself
(Do it Together)

Do it now!