

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2011**

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**HOUSE RESOLUTION DRHR30235-LG-104 (3/24)**

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Sponsors: Representatives McGrady, Holloway, Fisher, and Hurley (Primary Sponsors).

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Referred to:

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1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HEALTHY AND ACTIVE  
2 CHILDREN IN NORTH CAROLINA AND ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO  
3 PARTICIPATE IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.

4 Whereas, children across the State of North Carolina are losing their connection  
5 with our natural world, an alienation that threatens their health, quality of life, readiness for  
6 future job opportunities, and the future of our natural resources; and

7 Whereas, children who frequently spend time outdoors in nature have enhanced  
8 sensory perception, decreased attention difficulties, and lowered rates of physical and  
9 emotional illness and obesity; and

10 Whereas, studies show that participation in outdoor activities will lead to good  
11 citizenship, improved fitness, foster volunteer and community service, promote positive social  
12 behavior, improve quality family time, and develop stronger and all around more productive  
13 North Carolinians; and

14 Whereas, children who experience nature have significantly less stress, and free  
15 play in natural areas enhances children's problem-solving ability, creativity, self-esteem, and  
16 self-discipline; and

17 Whereas, spending frequent time outdoors is also the best way to develop a  
18 connection to nature and thus build a foundation of environmental literacy and stewardship;  
19 and

20 Whereas, our State is endowed with a diverse natural landscape and has a longstanding  
21 commitment to its natural heritage, connecting its people to the land and passing its heritage  
22 and traditions to future generations; and

23 Whereas, our State is committed to ensuring all children have the opportunity to  
24 connect with nature at an early age and to build upon that connection throughout their lives;  
25 and

26 Whereas, our State is abundant in high-quality natural places that offer both  
27 structured and unstructured outdoor experiences, such as environmental education centers,  
28 nature and science centers, State, national, and local parks, the zoo, aquariums, museums,  
29 educational State forests, wildlife centers, soil and water conservation districts, coastal  
30 reserves, arboretums, botanical gardens, camps, 4-H centers, farms, cultural resource centers,  
31 and national wildlife refuges; and

32 Whereas, North Carolina is rich in educational initiatives, conservation  
33 organizations, federal, State, and local natural resource and recreation agencies, schools, and  
34 education and civic organizations that are all actively engaged in promoting environmental  
35 literacy and stewardship of natural resources; and

36 Whereas, children are happier and healthier the more they are outside; Now,  
37 therefore,



1 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

2           **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives believes that every child in North  
3 Carolina should have the opportunity to discover, explore, and connect with natural spaces and  
4 wild places close to home, in neighborhoods, and cities throughout the State.

5           **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives recognizes the need to promote  
6 healthy and active children in North Carolina and encourages children's participation in outdoor  
7 activities.

8           **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.