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of
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GET OUTDOORS ANCHORAGE SUMMIT KICKS OFF TODAY
Anchorage Organizations Develop Plan to Get People Outdoors

Mayor Mark Begich today joined the Get Outdoors Anchorage Steering Committee at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center to kick off the Get Outdoors Anchorage Working Summit. The summit continues through Thursday, Dec. 11.

The Get Outdoors Anchorage Steering Committee comprises a variety of federal, state and local agencies and non-profit organizations working together toward the common goal of getting children outdoors. Committee members will work together to develop a local solution to the nationwide problem of connecting children with their natural environment.

“We started this conversation this spring in City Hall, recognizing the need to connect Anchorage children with the outdoors,” said Mayor Begich. “We’re proud to join these great organizations in demonstrating our commitment to improving the health of our children and our community.”

According to the Steering Committee, national studies indicate that today’s generation of children spends less time outdoors and more time in front of computer and television screens. These children are less physically active, more obese and less likely to succeed in school. According to the Anchorage School District, 36 percent of Anchorage school children are overweight or obese.

“In Anchorage we are fortunate to have access to salmon fishing in city streams, thousands of acres of municipal parks and world-famous greenbelt trails, as well as Chugach State Park and Chugach National Forest as our next-door neighbors,” said Jim Adams, Director of the Alaska office of the National Wildlife Federation. “It’s time to work together to get kids and families outdoors to enjoy our Big Wild Life.”

(more)

Outdoor Summit

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The working summit will culminate in a signing ceremony of the *Anchorage Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights* on Thursday, December 11, from 11:30 a.m. – Noon. Signatories will include sponsoring Federal and State Agency heads and Mayor Begich.

For more information and a schedule of events, please visit the Get Outdoors Anchorage Working Summit website at <http://www.alaskageographic.org/static/1039/get-outdoors-anchorage-working-summit>.

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