



Delaware's
Children in Nature
Coalition &
Environmental
Literacy Plan

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Coordinator



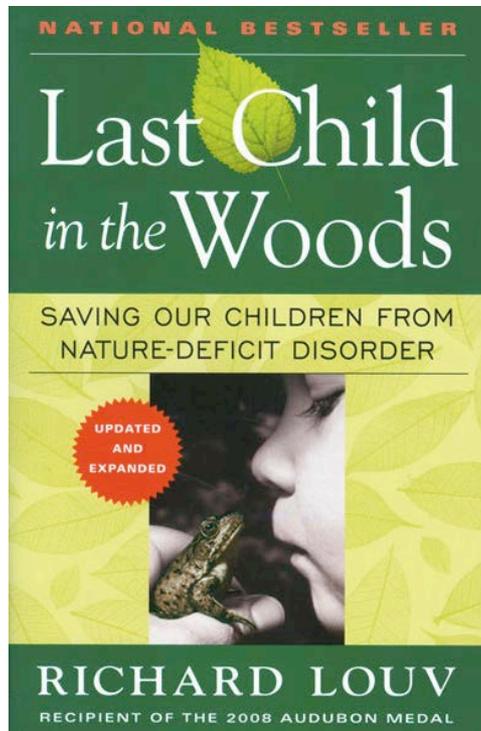
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Children in Nature

Mission

- To improve **environmental literacy**,
- Create opportunities for children to participate in **outdoor experiences**,
- promote **healthy lifestyles** and
- provide better **access to green space** through schools and community programs.

The Problem Defined as Nature-Deficit Disorder



- Disconnect from nature, her gifts, her lessons
- Lost unstructured play, wonder and creativity
- Health Impacts including obesity
- Mental Health and Attention Disorders
- Fear and Risk Aversion
- Lack of understanding about nature and world

Global Movement & Growing Research on Benefits of Nature

- Therapeutic and Restorative
- Reduced Symptoms of Attention Disorders
- Reduced Disciplinary & Attendance Issues
- Increase Creativity, Self-Confidence, Conflict Resolution Skills
- Increased Appreciation for Nature
- Gains in Social Studies, Science, Math and Language Arts Proficiency
- Improvements to Standardized Test Scores
- Increase Problem Solving and Critical Thinking
- Increased Student Physical Activity & Health

Delaware Children in Nature

- Proposed 2010
- DE Assembly Resolution, Signed by Markell - 2011
- 150 leaders, 4,000+ hours, Taskforce Report - 2012
- Coalition Growing – 29+ partners– 2013-15
- Website, CIN Month – 2014
- Environmental Literacy Plan-2015

October is...
Children in Nature Month
Join us Outside



THE STATE OF DELAWARE
Children In Nature/
No Child Left Inside® Initiative
Taskforce Report

Presented October 2012

Delaware Environmental Literacy Plan



Delaware Environmental Literacy Plan

- Who created?
- Who approved?
- Where can you find it?

www.delawarecin.org

Delaware Environmental Literacy Plan



Meaningful Outdoor Experiences – Defined

School Setting

- In Each Grade Band
- Teacher Engagement
- Localized
- Practice-Based, Out of Classroom
- Key Component
- Sustained
- Non-formal Educator Enhancement
- For All Students

Children, Families, and Communities

- Intentional
- Establish Traditions
- Action Oriented
- Connection Built
- Senses Engaged
- Provokes thought or Feeling
- Experiences Nature Outdoors

Places for Environmental Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes

○ Families

- Practice Sustainable Behaviors
- Lifelong Learning
- Spend Time in Nature

○ Leisure

- Connect with Local Environment

○ School

- Integrate ELP and existing standards
- Model Green Practices

○ Communities

- Implement Sustainability
- Resource for Schools and Youth

Coalition Activities and Events Including:

- Youth Environmental Summer Jobs/Career Programs
- Outdoor Inventory Database
- Federal Green Ribbon Schools
- Children in Nature Month
- Chesapeake Bay Agreement – Work Plan
- Formal/Informal Educator Partnerships
- Habitats and Vegetable Gardens
- Health/Outdoors Partnerships
 - Healthy Kids Days
 - Walkable Bikable
 - Prescription for Health
- Many More...

What else is DE CIN doing?

NOAA B-Wet Grant

- Habitats - 2 school districts
- MWEEs for 3 grades
- Align new Science & Geography Standards
- Teacher Training

Other 1-2 year Goals Being Set Now in:

- Education
- Outdoor Connections
- Community Outreach
- Sustainability of Effort
- Health

Children in Nature Partners & Growing



Post-Taskforce, after Oct 2012

- Dept of Natural Resources & Environmental Control
(Parks, Fish & Wildlife, Watershed, Energy & Climate, Nat. Estuarine Research Res.+)
- Dept of Education
- Nemours (NHPS, Sussex Outdoors, Mansion and Gardens, +)
- Delaware Nature Society
- Delaware Assoc. of Environmental Education
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Division of Public Health
- Delaware Greenways / See You Outdoors
- Center for the Inland Bays

By June 2015

- Delaware Geographic Alliance
- Delaware Agricultural Museum & Village
- The Nature Conservancy of DE
- Rehoboth Beach -Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce
- Child's Play by the Bay

By June 2015 Con't

- Delaware Museum of Natural History
- Delaware Sea Grant, U of D Lewes
- Dept of Agriculture/Delaware Forest Service
- Polytech School District
- Southern Delaware Tourism
- YMCA of Delaware
- Delaware Stem Council
- Delaware Center for Horticulture
- Delaware Outdoor Trail

Recently Joined

- First State National Historical Park
- Del-Mar-Va Council of Boy Scouts of America
- The Jefferson School
- Water Resources Agency, U of D Newark
- Caesar Rodney School District
- Healthy Food / Healthy Kids
- **Your organization????**

How can we align efforts?

- Use ELP in Planning and Executing Watershed/Wetland Events and Programs
- Habitat Design Team(s) – Spring & Fall 2016
- Website Links
 - Calendar Links for Nature Activities and Events
 - Teacher Resources Links
- Become Partner if our goals align
- Join Chesapeake Bay Agreement Work Plan
- You tell us – get in touch – lets explore

A few copies available

- Environmental Literacy Plan
- Delaware Chesapeake Bay Work Plan - Draft
- Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights
- Application for Partnership in CIN
- Presentation
- Coordinator's Business Card



D E L A W A R E

Children in Nature

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