

1 CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

2 RESOLUTION NO. 2008-99

3 INTRODUCED BY:

4 Roseman Romero
5
6 David Cox
7 C. Dominguez
8
9
10 RESOLUTION

11 SUPPORTING LEAVING NO NEW MEXICO CHILD INSIDE.

12
13 WHEREAS, children today are spending more time watching television and playing
14 video games than in school, and even less time experiencing and enjoying the outdoors, resulting
15 in "nature deficit disorder"; and

16 WHEREAS, childhood obesity, attention deficit disorder and diabetes are growing
17 problems in New Mexico and promoting physical and a lifelong interest in the outdoors will
18 contribute to the cognitive, physical, social, mental, spiritual and emotional well being of our
19 children; and

20 WHEREAS, many New Mexico youth—especially minorities and children from low-
21 income communities—do not have easy access to nature and live in a structured society in which
22 almost every moment of their day is scheduled and accounted for, adding to the stress levels and
23 severely impacting our young; and

24 WHEREAS, outdoor education and recreation create opportunities for youth to develop
25 personal connections with the natural cultural landscape of their communities, and develop their

1 own unique roles within that landscape; and

2 **WHEREAS**, communities throughout New Mexico are utilizing outdoor education and
3 recreation as a vehicle for ensuring excellence in education, making education relevant to
4 learners, developing a workforce capable of meeting the challenges of the future, and improving
5 the quality of life for communities; and

6 **WHEREAS**, outdoor education and recreation increases awareness about the
7 environment and its systems while developing critical-thinking and decision-making skills that
8 will result in a citizenry empowered to meet their future responsibilities regarding the
9 environment; and

10 **WHEREAS**, teachers and students are continually pressured to improve academic test
11 scores-based on standards and benchmarks-and studies have shown that outdoor, interactive
12 education can increase student standardized test scores and grade point averages, reduce
13 discipline problems, improve attendance rates, build citizenry skills and resource stewardship
14 ethics, improve conflict resolution and problem-solving skills, and increase teacher job
15 satisfaction; and

16 **WHEREAS**, reconnecting our youth with nature is a community investment for all New
17 Mexicans; and

18 **WHEREAS**, with New Mexico's unmatched beauty and natural lands, the state can and
19 should lead the nation in outdoor education outdoor recreation, and experiential adventure-based
20 learning programs; and

21 **WHEREAS**, since 1990, the city of Santa Fe's Children and Youth Commission has
22 recognized the importance of connecting our youth with nature through its biannual grant
23 program by funding local youth organizations that prioritize outdoor activities and environmental
24 awareness including the current grants for the Randall Davey Audubon Center's outdoor science
25 educational program, the Santa Fe Children Museum's earthworks program and YouthWorks

1 Santa Fe Youth Conservation Corps; and

2 **WHEREAS**, on August 27, 2008, the Governing Body adopted the Healthy Lifestyles
3 for Children and Adolescents Task Force report including many implementation policies that
4 encourage families and children to participate in healthy outdoor activities; and

5 **WHEREAS**, as of September 2008, over 60 New Mexico organizations have joined the
6 Leave No Child INSIDE statewide coalition.

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
8 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the city of Santa Fe recognizes the importance of outdoor education
9 and recreation and affirms the important role of outdoor experiences in preparing the next
10 generation for stewardship of local communities as well as global ecosystems; and

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the city of Santa Fe affirms that local
12 communities should be empowered and provided the necessary resources to engage their youth in
13 outdoor education and recreation experiences; and

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the city of Santa Fe is committed to engage New
15 Mexico decision-makers to provide funding to help outdoor education and recreation programs
16 become financially sustainable; and

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the city of Santa Fe hereby joins the Leave No
18 Child INSIDE statewide coalition and will communicate its support for outdoor education and
19 recreation to city staff through the city's children and youth friendly working group; to Santa Fe
20 youth provider organizations; and to the local news media.

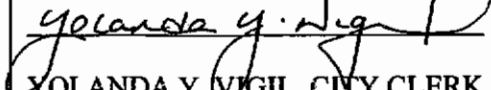
21 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 12th day of November, 2008.

22
23
24 

25 DAVID COSS, MAYOR


1 ATTEST:

2

3 
4 YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

5

6 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

7 
8 _____
9 FRANK D. KATZ, CITY ATTORNEY

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25 Jp/ca/jpmb/2008 res/No NM child