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MEDIA ADVISORY

GINA MCCARTHY, COMMISSIONER, CT DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CELEBRATES GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH AT JUNE 21-22 CAMPOUT IN BUSHNELL PARK

CAMPOUT LAUNCHES GET OUTDOORS USA! A NATIONAL INITIATIVE PROMOTING OUTDOOR ACTIVITY AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

WHAT: Gina McCarthy, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection will celebrate Great Outdoors Month and the first day of summer by introducing Connecticut's youth to the wonders of the great outdoors at a campout hosted in the shadow of the State Capitol. Study after study shows that spending time outdoors yields lifelong mental, physical and spiritual benefits – and that leisure time patterns are established early in life. Commissioner McCarthy will join youth in campsite activities and discuss the importance of Great Outdoors Month to the State of Connecticut and the nation – and highlight Connecticut's "No Child Left Inside" initiative.

The event will also launch a national initiative called Get Outdoors USA!, which helps American children seek out healthy, active outdoor lifestyles and embrace America's Great Outdoors, its parks, forests, refuges and other public lands and waters.

WHO: - Gina McCarthy, Commissioner, CT Department of Environmental Protection
- Derrick Crandall, President, American Recreation Coalition

WHEN Campout begins Thursday, June 21 at 4:30 p.m.
Breakfast with Commissioner McCarthy and other dignitaries, Friday, June 22, 7 – 9 a.m.

WHERE Bushnell Park, Hartford, CT (*Carousel Side*)

MORE: Connecticut Gov. Rell has issued a proclamation declaring June as Great Outdoors Month. She joins 20 fellow governors and more than 50 national organizations in celebrating our outdoors legacy and getting people outside to benefit from healthy, active lifestyles.

Connecticut has experienced improved state outdoor offerings and opportunities under Gov. Rell and Commissioner McCarthy's leadership. The state has seen a year over year increase in park visitation and the Governor's initiative called "No Child Left Inside" reconnects families with the outdoors, builds the next generation of environmental stewards and showcases Connecticut's parks and forests. Connecticut will receive an award from the American Recreation Coalition for national leadership, including the export of "No Child Left Inside" to other states.

About Get Outdoors USA!

Get Outdoors USA! is a national movement dedicated to helping children live healthy, active outdoor lives. Through outdoor activity children receive benefits of mind, body and spirit and are able to experience the national treasures that belong to all Americans. For more information, visit www.getoutdoorsusa.org.

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