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YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee
(414) 313-9622

**YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee Celebrates
National Get Outdoors Day on Saturday, June 9**

Partners with Other Local Organizations in Building a Love for Nature

MILWAUKEE – (June 6, 2018) - In celebration of National Get Outdoors Day, the YMCA of Metropolitan of Milwaukee, with sponsorship of the USDA Forest Service, continues its commitment to improving the health and wellness of Milwaukee families, by hosting a day of FREE, fun, outdoor activities at the Rite-Hite Family YMCA on Saturday, June 9 from 9:30 am until Noon.

National Get Outdoors Day has become an annual event to encourage healthy, active outdoor fun. The invigorating activities at Rite-Hite this Saturday will include kayaking, canoeing, archery and a challenging high ropes course.

"It's so exciting to see the enthusiasm from our dedicated partners that are committed to connecting families, and in particular children, to the value of outdoor activity and play," said Shanee' Jenkins, Vice President, Social Responsibility & Strategic Partnership for the YMCA of Metropolitan of Milwaukee, "National Get Outdoors day provides numerous options to participate throughout the city, and is a reminder of how beneficial and enjoyable being outside can be."

Participating partners will offer opportunities for families to experience traditional and non-traditional types of outdoor activities throughout the Milwaukee area, with an added emphasis on reaching first-time visitors to public lands and reconnecting youth to the outdoors.

Here's a complete listing of sites and FREE activities for June 9:

- **Rite-Hite Family YMCA, 9:30am - Noon**
Activities: Kayaking, canoeing, archery, high ropes course and a visit from Woodsy the Owl. Pre-registration required, please contact Chris Przedpelski at cprzedpelski@ymcamke.org.
- **Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, 9am - Noon**
Activities: hiking, frog catching, observation tower, Woodsy Owl
- **Urban Ecology Center, Washington Park, 10am – 2pm**
Activities: hiking, canoeing, bird watching, pond ecology and a visit from Smokey the Bear

- **Lakeshore State Park with Milwaukee Recreation, 1 – 3pm**
Activities: Geocaching Fossil Hunt. Pre-registration required, please contact Nicole Sponholtz nicole@milwaukeeerecreation.net.
- **Havenwoods State Forest, 9am – 2pm**
Activities: plant a tree, live animals, pond hike

Local community partners participating in the program include the U.S. Forest Service, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, Urban Ecology Center, Milwaukee Recreation Department, Milwaukee Public Schools and the Cream City Conservation Corps.

The YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee has convened local partners for the second consecutive year, with the purpose of increasing participation in outdoor activities through coordination, collaboration, and communication.

This initiative has evolved from then-First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! program that started in 2010. Let's Move! was a comprehensive initiative dedicated to solving the problem of obesity within a generation, so that children born today will grow up healthier and be able to pursue their dreams.

About the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee

The YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee is a powerful association of men, women and children of all ages and from all walks of life joined together by a shared passion to strengthen the foundations of community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Since 1858, Milwaukee YMCAs have helped kids and families live healthy lives in spirit, mind and body. Supported in part through contributions to the Annual Campaign, the Y provides membership assistance and scholarships to programs like summer camp, child care and teen activities, to make sure that everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has the opportunity to be healthy, confident, connected and secure. www.ymcamke.org.

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