About OAK
OAK is a national strategic partnership of organizations from diverse sectors with a common interest in connecting children, youth and families with the outdoors. OAK’s members are brought together by the belief that the wellness of current and future generations, the health of our planet and communities and the economy of the future depend on humans having a personal, direct and life-long relationship with nature and the outdoors.

OAK’s Mission
To expand the number and quality of opportunities for children, youth and families to connect with the outdoors.

OAK’s Vision
All children and youth have the opportunity and encouragement to play outside, touch soil, feel rain, watch leaves fall, sleep under the stars, count waves, eat food fresh from the garden, roll down a hill, catch a fish and enjoy the satisfaction of climbing to the top of a hill or a tree. Such simple acts create a pathway to an appreciation for nature and wildlife, an active and healthy outdoor lifestyle and a sustained relationship with the natural world.

OAK’s Values
OAK’s core values are the shared beliefs and principles that guide our behavior, interactions and decision-making. OAK is committed to multi-sector collaboration, results, non-partisanship, diversity, inclusion and fun.

OAK’s Focus
Although families have the leading role in connecting children with the outdoors, there is also a need for decision-makers to ensure that children, youth and families have the access, opportunities, skills and encouragement to connect with the great outdoors. OAK seeks to raise awareness and activate leaders and decision-makers at the grassroots, local, state, regional and federal levels to support change efforts that expand and strengthen outdoor education, community health and wellness, and environmental stewardship opportunities for children and youth across America. OAK is an active voice for the movement, focused on strategic and overall change. OAK is committed to engaging, educating and influencing leaders in a variety of sectors including conservation, recreation, health, education, defense and military readiness, business, built environment and transportation.

Outdoor Education: OAK supports initiatives that provide children and youth with opportunities to learn about — and in — the great outdoors. These initiatives provide experiences that are both in-school and out-of school experiential learning, are hands-on, and ultimately improve both academic skills and the practical skills, and create a well-rounded education that all kids need to thrive.

Community Health and Wellness: OAK supports initiatives and infrastructure that increase access and opportunity to engage in healthy, safe, and affordable outdoor places, networks and programs. By helping children and their families play and learn through outdoor recreation, we can ultimately improve the health of individuals and the broader community.

Environmental Stewardship: OAK supports initiatives and funding that provide young people with jobs, training, service, and volunteer opportunities that connect them to the outdoors and recreational opportunities. These initiatives will help youth assume responsibility for the stewardship and preservation of America’s great outdoors and the healthy development of the next generation.
OAK’s Steering Committee Members

- Active Network
- Adventure Advertising
- Alliance for Childhood
- America Walks
- American Camp Association
- American Canoe Association
- American Heart Association
- American Hiking Society
- American Society of Landscape Architects
- Appalachian Mountain Club
- Appalachian Trail Conservancy
- Association for Experiential Education
- Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education
- Big City Mountaineers
- Blue Star Families
- Children & Nature Network
- Choose Outdoors
- Clearwater
- Conservation Legacy
- The Corps Network
- The Fishing Education Foundation – National Fishing in Schools Program
- Get to Know
- GirlTrek
- Global Organization of Tree Climbers
- International Mountain Bicycling Association
- Izaak Walton League of America
- Kids4Trees
- Lantern Camps
- National Association of State Park Directors/America’s State Parks
- National Interscholastic Cycling Association
- National Military Family Association
- National Outdoor Leadership School

OAK’s National Partner Members

- National Parks Conservation Association
- National Park Trust
- National Recreation and Park Association
- National Wildlife Federation
- NatureBridge
- Nemours
- North American Association for Environmental Education
- The North Face
- Outdoor Afro
- The Outdoor Foundation
- The Outdoors Empowered Network
- Outward Bound
- Pass It On! – Outdoor Mentors
- Pheasants Forever
- Public Lands Service Coalition
- Quail Forever
- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
- Recreating with Kids
- REI
- Safe Routes to School National Partnership
- Sierra Club
- SOS Outreach
- Student Conservation Association
- Take a Walk Books
- Trout Unlimited
- The Trust for Public Land
- TurfMutt
- Up2Us
- Wilderness Inquiry
- The Wilderness Society
- Winter Wildlands Alliance
- YMCA of the USA

OAK’s State and Local Partner Members

- CA – Outdoor Outreach
- DE – Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife
- NC – E-Corps Expeditions, Inc.
- NC – The Nature Coach
- NM – Wide Horizons 4-H
- TN – Outdoor Chattanooga
- VA – Roanoke Outside
- WA – IslandWood

www.outdoorsallianceforkids.org