

FS Agreement No. 15-SU-11132224-285

Cooperator Agreement No. _____

SERVICE-WIDE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between The
CHILDREN & NATURE NETWORK
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA
NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
THE CORPS NETWORK
REI
SIERRA CLUB
YMCA OF THE USA
THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY
And The
USDA, FOREST SERVICE

This SERVICE-WIDE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is hereby made and entered into by and between the members of the Outdoors Alliance for Kids (Children & Nature Network, Izaak Walton League of America, National Recreation and Park Association, National Wildlife Federation, The Corps Network, REI, Sierra Club, YMCA of the USA, and the Wilderness Society), hereinafter referred to as “OAK,” and the USDA, Forest Service, hereinafter referred to as the “U.S. Forest Service.”

Background: Empowering youth and preparing them for effective stewardship of our Nation’s resources are among the most urgent conservation priorities of our time. Decisive action now will help guide the future of our public lands for our Nation and its citizens; during a time when America’s population grows more urban and diverse. Too many of our youth grow up with too few opportunities to connect with the natural world. The important role that our Nation’s forests and grasslands, urban forests, rural areas, and community green spaces play in fostering healthy, sustainable communities has never been more clear or more critical. In this environment, there is an increasing risk of a generational loss of the conservation ethic and a loss of the appreciation of the value of natural resource stewardship, service and careers.

The U.S. Forest Service supports an active network of youth programming that engages youth, families and communities in activities that connect them to nature—from interagency, nationwide, year-round programs that reach the largest number of youth—to smaller events that are designed to address local needs. Collectively these programs reach more than 4 million Americans annually and engage thousands of partners. These programs are delivered by every deputy area and at all levels of the U.S. Forest Service.

Investments in U.S. Forest Service signature programs such as More Kids in the Woods, Children’s Forests, and Discover the Forest.org have resulted in leveraged resources from



the Regions, Stations and Area and external partnerships. Expanded support for special events such as National Fishing Day, National Get Outdoors and Public Lands Days, Outdoor Nation youth summits, National Pollinator Week, International Migratory Bird Day, NatureWatch, Pathways, Public Lands Corps, Job Corps, and 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) have increased the number of youth engaged and increased awareness about U.S. Forest Service opportunities.

An important component of U.S. Forest Service youth programming is the focus on underserved and urban populations. Recognizing the changing demographics of our nation, the U.S. Forest Service is reaching out to historically underserved populations. As the country's population has shifted to more urban environments, the U.S. Forest Service has also scaled up programming oriented to an urban audience. Programs meet children and families where they are, and encourage them to come out and enjoy the Nation's public lands.

Building on the U.S. Forest Service historic commitment to conservation and environmental stewardship, youth programming is strengthening pathways to employment, promoting volunteerism, building awareness and understanding, and reconnecting youth with the outdoors. The U.S. Forest Service is on track to expand youth engagement and demonstrate impact.

Title: Collaborating on Connecting America's Youth to the Outdoors and Their Public Lands

I. PURPOSE: The purpose of this MOU is to document the cooperation between the parties to collaborate on planning and programs that help engage America's youth with the outdoors and their public lands, in accordance with the following provisions.

II. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INTERESTS:

Both OAK and the U.S. FOREST SERVICE have responsibilities and interests in the reaching out and engaging all America's youth in understanding, experiencing and caring for the outdoors and their public lands.

The U.S. Forest Service is a natural resource agency dedicated to the sustained management of the Nation's natural resources, service to people, and through Federal law and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture has major responsibility for conserving biodiversity through the management of fish, wildlife, and plant habitats, including providing special protection for threatened, endangered, and sensitive/rare plant and animal species. The U.S. Forest Service accomplishes much of this work by initiating and developing cooperative relationships and effective partnerships through its National Forest System, Research and Development, International Programs, and State and Private Forestry branches.

The U.S. Forest Service has a long tradition and history of working with youth—from the Civilian Conservation Corps, to Job Corps, to the Youth Conservation Corps and Young Adult Conservation Corps, to Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl, to



establishing the 21CSC program, and the More Kids in the Woods projects and Children's Forests.

OAK is a national strategic partnership of organizations (Children & Nature Network, Izaak Walton League of America, National Recreation and Park Association, National Wildlife Federation, The Corps Network, REI, Sierra Club, YMCA of the USA, and the Wilderness Society) from diverse sectors with the common interest in expanding the number and quality of opportunities for children, youth and families to connect with the outdoors. OAK was formed in 2010 to promote the well-being of current and future generations of Americans, the health of our planet, communities and economy, and to build personal and life-long relationships with nature and the outdoors. In pursuit of these goals, OAK does the following:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

In consideration of the above premises, the parties agree as follows:

III. OAK SHALL:

- A. Serve as a convener, bringing together organizations interested in children in nature issues, policies and programs, and provide a pathway for federal agencies to connect to these organizations.
- B. Advise the U.S. Forest Service of opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation and education programs and events.
- C. Facilitate the expansion of opportunities for outdoor educational activities and collaborate, where appropriate, with the agencies at the Regional, State and local levels to develop jointly supported programs that improve access to public lands and waters and create meaningful outdoor experiences for children and families.



- D. Disseminate information received from the agencies about youth engagement, employment, and education to engage youth with the outdoors.
- E. Designate and convene an Implementation Team consisting of OAK and U.S. Forest Service representatives that will jointly develop and oversee the implementation of the action plan described in Article V of this MOU. The Implementation Team will meet no less than two times per year to plan and monitor projects undertaken pursuant to this MOU.

IV. THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE SHALL:

- A. Provide publicly available information to OAK on conservation and management issues, and program initiatives pertaining to U.S. Forest Service administered lands and waterways.
- B. Advise OAK of opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation and education programs and events, such as National Fishing and Boating Days, International Migratory Bird Days, National Public Lands Day and National Get Outdoors Day and Great Outdoors Month.
- C. Facilitate the expansion of opportunities for outdoor educational activities and collaborate, where appropriate, with OAK at the Regional, State and local levels to develop jointly supported programs that improve access to public lands and waters and create meaningful outdoor experiences for children and families.
- D. Provide information to OAK about youth engagement, employment, and education to engage youth with the outdoors.
- E. Promote the partnership through agency communications to employees and partners and recognizing successful projects at the regional, state and local levels.
- F. Designate representatives to participate in the Implementation Team that will jointly develop and oversee the implementation of the action plan described in Article V of this MOU. The Implementation Team will meet no less than two times per year to plan and monitor projects undertaken pursuant to this MOU.

V. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:

- A. Within 180 days of the final signature on this MOU, the U.S. Forest Service and OAK will prepare a long-term action plan that describes specific and measurable collaborative programs and events that contribute to our overall objectives. In developing this action plan, the U.S. Forest Service and OAK will build from and highlight existing, successful U.S. Forest Service youth engagement efforts, and investigate new efforts that engage multiple sectors in pursuit of the goals of:



1. Strengthening and expanding partnerships to create new outdoor play and recreation opportunities for millions of young people;
2. Strengthening existing, and developing new, conservation/outdoor educational programs and opportunities for grades K-12;
3. Expanding service and volunteer programs to build a nation-wide network in support of the MOU;
4. Strengthening youth employment and training programs that meet mutual objectives through public/private partnerships; and
5. Strengthening the National Prevention Strategy for improving health and well-being of young people, developed by the National Prevention Council.

B. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS. Individuals listed below are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this MOU.

Principal OAK Contacts:

OAK Program Contact	OAK Administrative Contact
Name: Jackie Ostfeld, Director-Nearby Nature Address: Sierra Club, 50 F St NW #8000 City, State, Zip: Washington, DC 20001 Telephone: 202-548-6584 Email: jackie.ostfeld@sierraclub.org	Name: Paul Sanford, National Director of Recreation Policy Address: The Wilderness Society, 1615 M Street NW, City, State, Zip: Washington, DC 20036 Telephone: 202.429.2615 Email: paul_sanford@twso.org

Principal U.S. Forest Service Contacts:

U.S. Forest Service Program Manager Contact	U.S. Forest Service Administrative Contact
Name: Michiko Martin Address: USDA Forest Service, WFWARP Staff, 201 14 th Street, S.W. City, State, Zip: Washington, DC 20250-1121 Telephone: 202-205-1241 FAX: 202-205-1599 Email: michikomartin@fs.fed.us	Name: Sandra Frost Address: USDA Forest Service, WFWARP Staff, 201 14 th Street, S.W. City, State, Zip: Washington, DC 20250-1121 Telephone: 202-590-0763 FAX: 202-205-1599 Email: sfrost@fs.fed.us

C. NOTICES. Any communications affecting the operations covered by this MOU given by the U.S. Forest Service or OAK is sufficient only if in writing and delivered in person, mailed, or transmitted electronically by e-mail or fax, as follows:



To the U.S. Forest Service Program Manager, at the address specified in the MOU.

To OAK, at OAK's address shown in the MOU or such other address designated within the MOU.

Notices are effective when delivered in accordance with this provision, or on the effective date of the notice, whichever is later.

- D. PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES. This MOU in no way restricts the U.S. Forest Service or OAK from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
- E. ENDORSEMENT. Any of OAK's contributions made under this MOU do not by direct reference or implication convey U.S. Forest Service endorsement of OAK's products or activities, and does not by direct reference or implication convey the cooperator's endorsement of the U.S. Forest Service products or activities.
- F. NONBINDING AGREEMENT. This MOU creates no right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity. The parties shall manage their respective resources and activities in a separate, coordinated and mutually beneficial manner to meet the purpose(s) of this MOU. Nothing in this MOU authorizes any of the parties to obligate or transfer anything of value.

Specific, prospective projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, property, and/or anything of value to a party requires the execution of separate agreements and are contingent upon numerous factors, including, as applicable, but not limited to: agency availability of appropriated funds and other resources; cooperator availability of funds and other resources; agency and cooperator administrative and legal requirements (including agency authorization by statute); etc. This MOU neither provides, nor meets these criteria. If the parties elect to enter into an obligation agreement that involves the transfer of funds, services, property, and/or anything of value to a party, then the applicable criteria must be met. Additionally, under a prospective agreement, each party operates under its own laws, regulations, and/or policies, and any Forest Service obligation is subject to the availability of appropriated funds and other resources. The negotiation, execution, and administration of these prospective agreements must comply with all applicable laws

Nothing in this MOU is intended to alter, limit, or expand the agencies' statutory and regulatory authority.

- G. USE OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE INSIGNIA. In order for OAK to use the U.S. Forest Service insignia on any published media, such as a Web page, printed publication, or audiovisual production, permission must be granted from the U.S.



- Forest Service's Office of Communications. A written request must be submitted and approval granted in writing by the Office of Communications (Washington Office) prior to use of the insignia.
- H. MEMBERS OF U.S. CONGRESS. Pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 22, no U.S. member of, or U.S. delegate to, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this MOU, or benefits that may arise therefrom, either directly or indirectly.
- I. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA). Public access to MOU or agreement records must not be limited, except when such records must be kept confidential and would have been exempted from disclosure pursuant to Freedom of Information regulations (5 U.S.C. 552).
- J. TEXT MESSAGING WHILE DRIVING. In accordance with Executive Order (EO) 13513, "Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging While Driving," any and all text messaging by Federal employees is banned: a) while driving a Government owned vehicle (GOV) or driving a privately owned vehicle (POV) while on official Government business; or b) using any electronic equipment supplied by the Government when driving any vehicle at any time. All cooperators, their employees, volunteers, and contractors are encouraged to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging when driving company owned, leased or rented vehicles, POVs or GOVs when driving while on official Government business or when performing any work for or on behalf of the Government.
- K. PUBLIC NOTICES. It is the U.S. Forest Service's policy to inform the public as fully as possible of its programs and activities. OAK is encouraged to give public notice of the receipt of this MOU and, from time to time, to announce progress and accomplishments. Press releases or other public notices should include a statement substantially as follows:
- "The U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, collaborates with OAK and many partners to help young people learn about, experience, and connect with their public lands and nature."
- OAK may call on the U.S. Forest Service's Office of Communication for advice regarding public notices. OAK is requested to provide copies of notices or announcements to the U.S. Forest Service Program Manager and to The U.S. Forest Service's Office of Communications as far in advance of release as possible.
- L. U.S. FOREST SERVICE ACKNOWLEDGED IN PUBLICATIONS, AUDIOVISUALS AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA. OAK shall acknowledge U.S. Forest Service participation in any publications, audiovisuals, and electronic media developed as a result of this MOU.



- M. TERMINATION. This MOU will remain in effect for five years, unless it is terminated by all the parties. Any of the parties, in writing, may terminate their participation in this MOU in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of expiration.
- N. DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION. OAK shall immediately inform the U.S. Forest Service if they or any of their principals are presently excluded, debarred, or suspended from entering into covered transactions with the federal government according to the terms of 2 CFR Part 180. Additionally, should OAK or any of their principals receive a transmittal letter or other official Federal notice of debarment or suspension, then they shall notify the U.S. Forest Service without undue delay. This applies whether the exclusion, debarment, or suspension is voluntary or involuntary.
- O. MODIFICATIONS. Modifications within the scope of this MOU must be made by mutual consent of the parties, by the issuance of a written modification signed and dated by all properly authorized, signatory officials, prior to any changes being performed. Requests for modification should be made, in writing, at least 30 days prior to implementation of the requested change.
- P. COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION DATE. This MOU is executed as of the date of the last signature and is effective through April 30, 2020 at which time it will expire.
- Q. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES. By signature below, each party certifies that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the individual parties are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this MOU. In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this MOU as of the last date written below.

SARAH MILLIGAN-TOFFLER, Executive Director Date
Children & Nature Network

SCOTT KOVAROVICS, Executive Director Date
Izaak Walton League of America

KEVIN O'HARA, Vice President of Urban and Date
Government Affairs
National Recreation and Park Association



KEVIN COYLE, J.D., Vice President Education and Training
National Wildlife Federation

Date

Mary Ellen Sprenkel

MARY ELLEN SPRENKEL, Chief Executive Officer
The Corps Network

12/8/15

Date

MARC BEREJKA, Director of Community and Government Affairs
REI

Date

JACKIE OSTFELD, Director, Nearby Nature
Sierra Club

Date

KATIE ADAMSON, Director of Health Partnerships and Policy
YMCA of the USA

Date

Paul Sanford

PAUL SANFORD, National Director of Recreation Policy
The Wilderness Society

12/8/2015

Date

Thomas L. Tidwell

THOMAS L. TIDWELL, Chief
U.S. Forest Service

12/8/15

Date



Jackie Henry
JACKIE HENRY
U.S. Forest Service Grants Management Specialist

6/11/15
Date

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Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0596-0217. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 3 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (voice). TDD users can contact USDA through local relay or the Federal relay at (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (relay voice). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.