

American Legion Auxiliary  
New Mexico Girls State  
Memorial



Principal Author: Jesse Smith

Memorial No: 14      Committee: E

Status:

Passed by:  Committee       House       Senate

Tabled by:  Committee       House       Senate

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Simple Title of Memorial: Youth Outdoor Conservation and Awareness Week

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HOUSE MEMORIAL

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**72<sup>nd</sup> SESSION – AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW MEXICO GIRLS STATE – 2019**

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INTRODUCED BY

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*Jesse Smith*

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A MEMORIAL

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Encouraging education and interaction concerning outdoor areas in New Mexico for Youth;

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Recognizing Outdoor areas in New Mexico and people who work there; Encouraging eco-

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friendly Outdoor practices; Youth Conservation education and Community Volunteering;

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Declaring August 24-31,2020, "New Mexico Outdoor Spaces Youth Adventure, Education,

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and Conservation Week" in the Senate

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WHEREAS, WHEREAS, there is a lack of interest and engagement in the "Outdoor

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Spaces" of New Mexico including, but not limited to National Parks, State

1 Parks, Wilderness Areas, and Open Spaces, among the majority of New Mexico Youth  
2 which in turn leads to a decreased admiration and appreciation of them;and  
3 WHEREAS, it has been proven that engaging with the outdoors frequently leads to more  
4 confident, responsible, and attentive youth in all aspects of life;and  
5 WHEREAS, there is a lack of awareness concerning the historical and cultural significance  
6 of the outdoor spaces of the American Southwest; and  
7 WHEREAS, many youth lack the motivation or means to engage with the outdoors in a  
8 meaningful way, or are unaware of the possibility to do so; and  
9 WHEREAS, there is a lack of proper education concerning "leave no trace" principles  
10 (herein referred to as LNT) and environmentally conscious outdoor recreational practices  
11 and behaviors, which as a consequence is irreparably damaging the ecosystems and  
12 general natural environment of outdoor spaces  
13 WHEREAS, an increase in involvement and engagement in the outdoors will increase  
14 overall appreciation for the environment, which in turn should inspire the next generation to  
15 work to combat deforestation, global warming, and other negative environmental factors  
16 that will most heavily affect our generation; and  
17 WHEREAS, engaging with the outdoors on a frequent basis has been scientifically proven  
18 to lead to better overall mental health, and should help combat the severe levels of  
19 depression, anxiety, and other mental conditions that the current generation is struggling  
20 with; and  
21 WHEREAS Outdoor recreation and other related fields make up a 9.9 billion dollar industry  
22 in New Mexico; and  
23 WHEREAS the outdoors is capable of providing a reprieve from the day-to-day struggles of  
24 youth as well as providing an opportunity to disconnect and get in touch with the world on a  
25 more personal level;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE AMERICAN  
LEGION AUXILIARY NEW MEXICO GIRLS STATE that NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT  
RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW  
MEXICO GIRLS STATE that the week of August 24-31, 2020 be designated "New Mexico  
Outdoor Spaces Youth Adventure, Education, and Conservation Week" in order to increase  
awareness and involvement in New Mexico Outdoor Areas and to educate youth about the  
efforts necessary to conserve and protect these areas;and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there will be  
increased education in elementary, middle and high schools of LNT principles, general  
environmentally conscious recreational practices, and the importance of following such  
principles and practices in the outdoors by ecologists and members of the forest service, or  
other outdoor-related programs such as summer camps or outdoor-education programs;  
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED events at each participating Outdoor Space to encourage  
youth involvement such as an increase in guided trail tours, star-gazing events at night, and  
educational promotions such as movies or speakers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to be an "Outdoor Spaces" fair in downtown Albuquerque in  
order to help youth learn about what Outdoor Spaces there are in New Mexico, as well as  
speak to representatives from each Space, with encouragement to outdoor gear stores and  
expedition programs to come and advertise as well; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to be daily volunteering events open to everybody to clean  
and learn about these open spaces in order to increase interest and engagement from the

1 community beyond youth at New Mexico schools, and to make the areas healthier, cleaner,  
2 and more welcoming.

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this  
5 memorial is transmitted to the commissioner of public lands, the New Mexico state bureau  
6 of land management, and the regional forester of the southwestern regional office of the  
7 United States Forest Service.