

MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

For Immediate Release

Date: _____

Contact: _____

Neighborhood Nature Club Begins in _____

Youth, families, and neighbors connect with the outdoors through neighborhood nature clubs

Youth, families, and neighbors of the _____ neighborhood in _____ are plugging into the great outdoors. Together, parents, grandparents, neighbors, and youth explore natural areas, discover wildlife, plants, and other natural resources, and share the enjoyment of outdoor experiences.

Members of the _____ Neighborhood Nature Club inspire youth to walk away from digital screens, to look up from texting, and to pull out the earbuds so they can explore, discover, and share the natural world. This happens near where youth live in yards, neighborhoods, and community green spaces. Using Backyards & Beyond, a 4-H program, the club follows neighborhood nature trails that nurture a child-nature relationship, inspire a sense of wonder, instill a sense of place, and develop youth environmental action and leadership.

Inspired by *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our children from nature-deficit disorder* (Louv, 2005), leading organizations, inspired groups, and dedicated individuals are guiding a national movement to connect children with nature. Youth health and development specialists, ecologists, parents, educators, and other community leaders report on multiple benefits of childhood experiences in nature. These benefits include enhanced youth and family health and wellness, improved academic performance, increased knowledge and understanding of the natural environment, and increased awareness and affinity for nature.

To join, contact _____, a Neighborhood Nature Club Leader, at _____. To start your own neighborhood nature club, visit neighborhoodnatureclubs.arizona.edu



National 4-H | Arizona 4-H | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USA-National Phenology Network | Children & Nature Network