



## News Release

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### **Earth Share of North Carolina Announces First Annual Statewide Campout**

**Durham, N.C.** – Earth Share of North Carolina (ESNC), a non-profit network of regional environmental organizations, is holding a statewide campout on Oct. 19 called Campout! Carolina. With the purpose of celebrating and showing support for North Carolina’s environment, ESNC is encouraging friends, families, churches, scout troops and community groups of all kinds to join in what they hope will be the state’s largest campout. Those who participate are encouraged to pitch a tent in their backyard or favorite North Carolina campsite, turn off or unplug non-essential electrical items, and enjoy an evening outdoors with family and friends.

“The environment is something that affects everyone in North Carolina,” said Heather Beard, director of ESNC. “Campout! Carolina is a fun way to come together and share our support for this beautiful state.”

ESNC’s Campout! Carolina is being partially sponsored by the outdoor store REI. REI is making it easy for campers to participate on Oct. 19 by offering free rental of camping gear including tents, sleeping bags and backpacks on a first-come, first-serve basis. A limited supply of Campout! Carolina t-shirts are also available at REI stores.

To get an accurate tally of campers, ESNC has developed a web site where campers can be counted as part of the state’s largest campout. Campers can visit [www.campoutcarolina.org](http://www.campoutcarolina.org) to register. By tracking the number of participants, ESNC hopes to demonstrate that there is support across North Carolina for a healthy environment. ESNC can also estimate the amount of energy potentially saved by campers across the state. Visitors to the web site will also learn tips for environmentally friendly camping, and find outdoor recipes, a star chart and fun activities for enjoying the outdoors. A limited number of Campout! Carolina t-shirts also will be available online.

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“Campout Carolina is a great time for parents to share the outdoors with their kids and to teach them about the importance of keeping the environment healthy for future generations,” said Beard.

Those who cannot campout on Oct. 19 can still show their support by visiting the [campoutcarolina.org](http://campoutcarolina.org) web site and making a donation to ESNC.

Earth Share of North Carolina is a federation of environmental non-profit organizations working to keep our state's rivers clean, our communities healthy, and to ensure we have natural places to visit and enjoy. Founded in 1991, Earth Share of North Carolina has raised more than \$5.5 million to protect North Carolina's environment through workplace giving campaigns, and has educated residents on the value of protecting North Carolina's natural resources through environmental non-profit organizations. When workplaces partner with Earth Share of North Carolina, employees can support individual organizations working on local and regional environmental concerns, and those working on issues at the national and international level. Earth Share of North Carolina also makes it easy to support the whole range of environmental issues with one gift. Learn more at [www.earthsharenc.org](http://www.earthsharenc.org).

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