



News Release

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EarthShare North Carolina Announces Fourth Annual Statewide Campout

Durham, NC- EarthShare North Carolina (ESNC), a non-profit network of regional environmental organizations, is calling on North Carolina residents to join in the state's largest campout. On Oct. 8-9, ESNC will hold its fourth annual statewide campout, Campout! Carolina. Residents are encouraged to reconnect with their natural surroundings by camping out in their back yard or favorite campsite, turning off the lights, unplugging nonessential appliances and enjoying our state's great outdoors.

Last year, more than 5,500 North Carolinians gathered with friends, family and neighbors to celebrate and show their support for the environment, setting a Campout! Carolina record. This year, ESNC hopes to exceed that number, and invites all North Carolinians to pitch a tent and register to Be Counted as official campers at www.campoutcarolina.org.

"Campout! Carolina is a great way to take a breather from our busy lives while collectively demonstrating the importance of protecting and preserving our natural heritage," said Heather Beard, executive director of ESNC. "Coming together as a state-wide community shows that we share the common bond of living in this beautiful state, and want to protect it for future generations."

ESNC encourages friends, family and neighbors, as well as church, scouting and community groups of all kinds, to join the campout and demonstrate their support for a healthy environment in North Carolina. Be sure to document your campout because there will be a photo contest after the campout weekend, sponsored by Dick's Sporting Goods. Check out the Photo Gallery on the Campout! Carolina page for more information.

ESNC's fourth annual Campout! Carolina is sponsored by footwear brand Merrell, The North Face, Dick's Sporting Goods, and the outdoor store REI. Sponsors and other supporters are also adding some fun by contributing gear and other items. This year, registered campers will be automatically entered in a drawing for a free tent and camping equipment from NC outfitters, and tickets to the Shakori Hills Grassroots Festival of Music and Dance Oct. 7-10. REI stores in North Carolina will also provide free camping gear rentals on a first-come, first-serve basis to anyone participating in Campout! Carolina. Check out the outfitters page of the website for more information.

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To be counted as part of the Tar Heel State's largest campout, campers are asked to register at www.campoutcarolina.org. By tracking the number of participants, ESNC hopes to demonstrate the growing support across North Carolina for a healthy environment. Website visitors will also learn tips for environmentally friendly camping, campsite location suggestions, and other fun activities to enhance the camping experience.

Campers can stay up to date about Campout! Carolina and connect with other campers through ESNC's Twitter and Facebook pages. Those who cannot camp out on Oct. 8 - 9 can still show their support by making a donation to ESNC at www.campoutcarolina.org.

About Earth Share North Carolina:

EarthShare North Carolina (ESNC) 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, ESNC has raised more than \$7 million in pledges 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 supporting environmental non-profit organizations. When workplaces partner with ESNC, employees can contribute to individual organizations working on local and regional environmental concerns, and those working on issues at the national and international level. ESNC also makes it easy to support the whole range of environmental issues with one gift. Learn more at www.earthsharenc.org.

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