

WHEREAS, the TREE Foundation, Inc., a Sarasota, Florida based nonprofit organization, is promoting “No Child Left Indoors” week as part of Earth Week, 2007, to encourage adults to connect a child with nature; and

WHEREAS, national statistics show that visits to national and state parks have fallen off by as much as 25% in the last decade, because kids remain indoors watching TV and playing computer games; and

WHEREAS, science education in America is falling behind that of other countries, especially knowledge of ecology and earth-based sciences; and

WHEREAS, a recent scientific study found that more children knew the characters of Pokémon (an electronic game) than could recognize an oak tree or an otter; and

WHEREAS, biological, health, and economic data indicate that children who connect with nature perform better in school; have higher SAT scores; exhibit fewer behavioral challenges, experience fewer attention-deficit disorders; and

WHEREAS, teaching children about their “home,” Planet Earth, fosters better stewardship and science literacy; and

WHEREAS, Sarasota County offers a wide array of parks and recreation areas wherein our children can connect with their amazingly diverse natural environment, from the gulf shore waters to coastal dunes to wetlands to oak hammocks to dry prairies to treetop canopies; and

WHEREAS, the TREE Foundation endorses activities locally and nationally to foster experiences for youth to appreciate and learn about nature and local ecology; and

WHEREAS, the locally begun “No Child Left Indoors” concept has grown into a national movement that encourages students, families, and adults to experience nature;

NOW THEREFORE, the County Commission of Sarasota County, Florida, on behalf of the citizens of our community, take great pride in recognizing the week of April 15-22, 2007, also known as Earth Week, to celebrate “No Child Left Indoors” and challenge all citizens-young and old-to take a child (or a child at heart) into the natural world for a shared educational experience.

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