



## PROCLAMATION

### *Children and Nature Awareness Month April 2009*

*WHEREAS, children today are far less likely than past generations to spend time playing outside. A growing body of research indicates that children pay a high price for indoor lifestyles resulting in increased childhood obesity, depression, inattentiveness, diminished creativity, and a disconnect to the natural world; and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Santa Barbara can offer parents and children rich resources for exploring nature trails, city and county parks, beaches, creeks, lakes, mountain canyons, and national forests within our immediate boundaries; and*

*WHEREAS, children who play outdoors on a regular basis are happier, healthier, smarter, more cooperative, and more self-confident. We commit to the ongoing promotion of programs, policies, and practices that will reconnect children and nature in enduring, meaningful ways; and*

*WHEREAS, Leave No Child Inside Santa Barbara represents a growing network of individuals, organizations, and agencies. The City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with 28 local organizations including the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Los Padres National Forest Service, Wilderness Youth Project and the Santa Barbara Zoo to spread the word about the importance of providing opportunities for all children to experience frequent, regular play and exploration in natural outdoor settings; and*

*WHEREAS, professionally trained staff and volunteers at Girls Incorporated encourage girls to build skills and self-confidence through hands-on activities and programs that let them discover their strengths in areas such as math, science, technology, sports, adventure, leadership, career planning and life skills.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTY BLUM, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the City of Santa Barbara, California, do hereby proclaim the month of April as CHILDREN AND NATURE AWARENESS MONTH and enthusiastically encourage our community members to support programs and activities that ensure our children stay in touch with our natural surroundings.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Santa Barbara, California, to be affixed to this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009.*

**MARTY BLUM, MAYOR**

