

# State of North Carolina



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEK

2009

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, environmental education is a lifelong learning process that increases people's knowledge and awareness about the environment, engages children and adults in learning and equips them with the skills and motivation to make informed environmental decisions; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of people of the state of North Carolina to improve environmental awareness and take advantage of the outstanding environmental education programs, abundant natural resources and facilities available to all citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, environmental education in North Carolina will increase dramatically by creating a full week of educational preparation in K-12 classrooms, on university campuses, and at non-formal educational facilities such as nature and science centers, state, national and local parks, zoos, aquariums, museums, educational state forests, wildlife centers, soil and water conservation districts as well as coastal reserves, arboreturns, botanical gardens, camps, 4-H centers, cultural resource centers and national wildlife refuges; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina has become a national leader in environmental education by certifying more than 800 "North Carolina Environmental Educators," including teachers and non-formal educators, and recognizing more than 180 "North Carolina Environmental Education Centers" that receive more than 20 million visitors annually and conduct thousands of environmental education programs each year; and

WHEREAS, environmental education bolsters core environmental literacy in our Pre K-12 students by featuring grade-appropriate environmental literacy goals and content standards; improves academic achievement across all disciplines, promotes healthy lifestyles; encourages children to spend time outdoors; and increases environmental literacy of our state's citizens; and

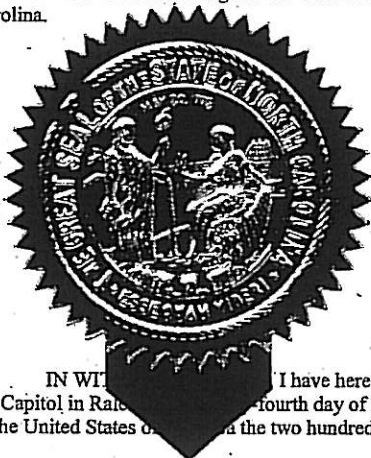
WHEREAS, collaborative efforts will increase the amount of environmental education taking place in America's classrooms prior to Earth Day while drawing educator attention to the larger opportunities and value of environmental education both year-long education and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, environmental education will encourage schools to partner with the 180 Environmental Education Centers in North Carolina including local museums, nature centers, zoos, science centers, aquariums and local parks; and

WHEREAS, the professional environmental education community will have an opportunity to annually feature its accomplishments with the nation's educational leaders; and

WHEREAS, National Environmental Education Week, coordinated by the National Environmental Education Foundation in cooperation with hundreds of outstanding environmental education organizations, education associations, and agencies will become an annually anticipated event for local participation in schools and various environmental education centers in North Carolina;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 12-18, 2009, as "ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEK" in North Carolina and call upon all citizens of this state to observe this week and recognize the continued growth and importance of environmental education in the State of North Carolina.



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh, North Carolina, on the fourth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.