

## **Resolution to Improve Environmental Education Funding in Urban Areas**

WHEREAS, while Wisconsin has a long history of environmental education and conservation, environmental education programs are not keeping pace with increased urban growth, with current programs being underfunded; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has countless forests and wetland areas available for exposure to urban youth, yet many urban students do not connect with these resources; and

WHEREAS, environmental education and the exposure of youth, including urban populations, to nature are critically important to the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation because these youth are fundamental to the protection of natural resources, a key goal of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation; and

WHEREAS, nature benefits children immensely, and is credited with lower rates of crime, anxiety, depression, higher graduation rates for at risk kids, and more success in school for children with ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome and other similar conditions, and

WHEREAS, increases in population diversity should be reflected in the increase of diversity in natural resource careers and activity involvement, and

WHEREAS, urban environmental education will give the growing Wisconsin population of minorities and marginalized people the voice and representation they need to be included in our natural resource discussions and in turn give an honest and wholesome representation of Wisconsin's diverse population; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction School District Standards require "Environmental education objectives and activities shall be integrated into kindergarten through grade 12 sequential curriculum plans".

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, at its Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, on April 20 - 21, 2018, support increased resources for urban environmental education for staffing and education, including place-based education to increase awareness and support for the environment by urban youth and the restoration of the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Federation continue to support strong Department of Public Instruction Standards for environmental education and activities in K-12 sequential curriculum plans.

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