

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 858

Recognizing the 15th anniversary of Outdoor Afro.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 15th anniversary of Outdoor Afro.

Whereas, in 2009, Outdoor Afro started as a blog about nature written by Ms. Rue Mapp, and has grown into a national not-for-profit network with volunteer leaders in 33 States and the District of Columbia, guiding hundreds of outdoor events each year based on a simple mission to celebrate and inspire Black-American connections to nature through recreational activities, including camping, hiking, birding, fishing, gardening, skiing, biking, camping, environmental education, conservation stewardship, and more;

Whereas, in the past 15 years, Outdoor Afro has cultivated and trained more than 1000 outdoor leaders, led thousands of outdoor events, and engaged well over 150,000 participants;

Whereas Outdoor Afro has disrupted the false perception that Black Americans do not have a relationship with nature and is inspiring access to remote and pristine nature, as well as urban nature, including local parks, trails, and open spaces;

Whereas Outdoor Afro promotes a healthy lifestyle and helps communities find healing, connects to Black history found in natural areas, and inspires an increased desire to protect vulnerable public lands for all to enjoy;

Whereas Outdoor Afro held its first international expedition in 2018 to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania;

Whereas, in response to the disproportionate number of Black children who drown while swimming, Outdoor Afro launched Making Waves, a program to strengthen relationships with water through water safety and swimming lessons provided by certified swim instructors;

Whereas, since its inception, Making Waves has funded nearly 1,950 “Swimmership” scholarships and aims to reach 1,500 new swimmers in 2024;

Whereas Outdoor Afro has engaged millions of people through digital outreach and is changing visual representations of who can connect with and lead in the outdoors through this digital outreach;

Whereas Outdoor Afro’s growing network comprises civically engaged men and women, many of whom plan outdoor activities on behalf of children and senior community members, restoring Black-American leadership in nature;

Whereas Outdoor Afro is a leading voice in the Black-American community for advice on where to recreate, the best outdoor gear to use, and environmental causes that need the greatest attention; and

Whereas October 25, 2024, marks 15 years since the establishment of Outdoor Afro as a community that supports connecting Black Americans with natural spaces and one another through recreational activities: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2            (1) recognizes the 15th anniversary of Outdoor  
3        Afro; and

4            (2) commends the leadership of Outdoor Afro  
5        for leading the way for inclusion in outdoor recre-  
6        ation and nature for all.

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