

# WHY YOUR SON SHOULD GO TO CAMP



Recently the Longs Peak Council co-sponsored a talk at Colorado State University by Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*. He talked about how kids today do not get a chance to be in the woods because they are too wired into computers, video games, and structured competitive activities such as team sports. He also discussed how parents keep kids inside because they worry about drugs and kidnappings; while at the same time other adults make rules against kids play such as building tree houses and catching tadpoles. Mr. Louv then went on to describe how this detachment from the outdoors can lead to childhood obesity, depression, and attention deficit-disorders; and how there is a growing body of scientific evidence that shows that exposure to the natural world is essential for the healthy physical, emotional, and psychological development of children.

Mr. Louv indicated that children who grow-up with little or no exposure to the natural experience of the outdoors have little interest or caring about it, and they become adults who could care less about preserving and protecting it. In the future they will become the ones who make the decisions about our world, and they will do so with limited knowledge, and no first hand experience about our natural environment.

The Jack Nicol Cub Scout Family Camp was constructed with the purpose of overcoming many of the same challenges related to nature-deficit disorder that Richard Louv identifies. The camp was constructed to foster play, to allow boys and parents to be do things together, to reduce the pressure of competition, to exert physical effort to accomplish goals, to put boys face-to-face with nature, and to do things to develop first-hand knowledge of the outdoors through experience. Related to nature, if we say “I have been to camp once already”, it is as if we are saying “I went outdoors last year.” The outdoors is life itself, and camping is the outdoor experience where everyday is different in that each brings new wonders of personal development, experience and growth.

## CAMP JACK NICOL – BE THERE !