



State of North Carolina

PAT McCRORY
GOVERNOR

NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS WEEK

2015

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly, at the behest of Governor Locke Craig, authorized the purchase of land for a state park at Mount Mitchell on March 3, 1915; and

WHEREAS, in 1916, 795 acres on the summit of Mount Mitchell were acquired, which became North Carolina's first state park to protect the scenic beauty and unique ecosystem of the highest peak east of the Mississippi River as part of North Carolina's heritage; and

WHEREAS, in the century since that time, North Carolina's citizens have worked with great dedication and resolve to include in their State Parks System examples of our state's most spectacular natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, today the State Parks System stretches from Mount Mitchell in the west to the tallest sand dune on the East Coast at Jockey's Ridge; and

WHEREAS, the State Parks System protects more than 225,000 acres, including the scenic landmarks, the ecological wonders, and the outdoor recreation destinations that make North Carolina outstanding among the states; and

WHEREAS, the State Parks System is important to North Carolina's tourism industry, a vital component of the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, the State Parks System contributes to the health and well-being of the state's citizens by encouraging physical activity and fostering volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, the State Parks System contributes immeasurably to the quality of life that makes North Carolina a great place to visit, to work and to live;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PAT McCRORY, Governor of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the North Carolina State Parks System, starting with the North Carolina General Assembly authorization of the first state park on March 3, 1915, the first week of March shall henceforth be known as "**NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS WEEK**," and commend its observance to all citizens, and encourage all citizens during that week to visit a state park, volunteer in a state park, learn about our state parks, and show support for our state parks system.

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 this second day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-ninth.



PAT McCRORY
Governor