## OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION TOPLINE REPORT 2012




## 

11.6 Billion Outdoor Outings
81.9 Average Outings Per Participant

In 2011, outdoor recreation among Americans reached the highest participation level in the last five years. Nearly 50 percent of all Americans ages six and older, or 141.1 million individuals, participated in at least one outdoor activity in 2011, making 11.6 billion outings. In fact, last year, Americans enjoyed 1.5 billion more outings than the previous year. Compared to 2010, participation in outdoor activities increased slightly among all age groups from 6 to 44 , while participation among those ages 44 and up remained relatively flat.

Outdoor participation among youth and young adults continued the promising but modest trend — with one percentage increases in every age bracket, 6 to 12,13 to 17 and 18 to 24 respectively. This accounted for more than 4 billion outdoor outings for the younger generation with an annual average of nearly 90 outdoor outings. While encouraging, these rates are significantly lower than those recorded in 2006. For example, 63 percent of youth ages 6 to 12 participated in outdoor recreation in 2011, compared to 78 percent in 2006.

The most popular activities among young people, in terms of overall participation, continued to be running, biking, camping, fishing and hiking. Skateboarding, triathlons and birdwatching were among their top five favorite activities as measured by frequency. Interestingly, adults share a passion for similar recreational pursuits.

Outdoor Participation, 2006 to 2011


Total Outdoor Outings


Number of Participants


# Youth \& Young Adult Participation 

Most Popular Youth Outdoor Activities
By Participation Rate, Ages 6 to 24

1. Running, Jogging and Trail Running $26.2 \%$ of youth, 20.9 million participants
2. Bicycling (Road, Mountain and BMX)
21.9\% of youth, 17.5 million participants
3. Camping (Car, Backyard and RV)
$20.6 \%$ of youth, 16.4 million participants
4. Fishing (Fresh, Salt and Fly)
$18.8 \%$ of youth, 15.0 million participants
5. Hiking
$12.9 \%$ of youth, 10.3 million participants

## Favorite Youth Outdoor Activities

By Frequency of Participation, Ages 6 to 24

1. Running, Jogging and Trail Running 86.8 average outings per runner, 1.8 billion total outings
2. Bicycling (Road, Mountain and BMX)
61.6 average outings per cyclist,
1.1 billion total outings
3. Skateboarding
56.1 average outings per skateboarder, 263.4 million total outings
4. Triathlon (Traditional/Road and Non-Traditional/Off Road)
50.2 average outings per triathlon participant, 23.5 million total outings
5. Birdwatching
22.2 average outings per birdwatcher,
54.2 million total outings



| Gender |  | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Male | 52\% | 50\% | 57\% | 53\% | 53\% |
|  | Female | 48\% | 50\% | 43\% | 47\% | 47\% |
| Age |  | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|  | 6 to 12 | 33\% | 29\% | 37\% | 36\% | 36\% |
|  | 13 to 17 | 24\% | 25\% | 30\% | 30\% | 30\% |
|  | 18 to 24 | 44\% | 46\% | 34\% | 34\% | 34\% |


| Race/ Ethnicity |  | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | African American/Black | 8\% | 8\% | 8\% | 11\% | 7\% |
|  | Asian/Pacific Islander | 4\% | 6\% | 5\% | 6\% | 6\% |
|  | Caucasian/White, nonHispanic | 77\% | 75\% | 78\% | 71\% | 76\% |
|  | Hispanic | 7\% | 7\% | 7\% | 9\% | 8\% |
|  | Other | 4\% | 4\% | 3\% | 4\% | 4\% |

Census
Region

|  | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| New England | $5 \%$ | $5 \%$ | $5 \%$ | $5 \%$ | $4 \%$ |
| Middle Atlantic | $15 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $12 \%$ | $13 \%$ | $13 \%$ |
| East North Central | $17 \%$ | $17 \%$ | $17 \%$ | $17 \%$ | $17 \%$ |
| West North Central | $7 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $8 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $7 \%$ |
| South Atlantic | $18 \%$ | $19 \%$ | $18 \%$ | $17 \%$ | $18 \%$ |
| East South Central | $5 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $6 \%$ |
| West South Central | $9 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $11 \%$ |
| Mountain | $8 \%$ | $8 \%$ | $8 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $9 \%$ |
| Pacific | $16 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $16 \%$ |

# Adult Participation 

## Most Popular Adult Outdoor Activities

By Participation Rate, Ages 25+

1. Fishing (Fresh, Salt and Fly)
$15.1 \%$ of adults, 31.2 million participants
2. Running, Jogging and Trail Running $14.8 \%$ of adults, 30.6 million participants
3. Camping (Car, Backyard and RV)
12.7\% of adults, 26.1 million participants
4. Bicycling (Road, Mountain and BMX)
$12.4 \%$ of adults, 25.5 million participants
5. Hiking
11.8\% of adults, 24.2 million participants

## Favorite Adult Outdoor Activities

By Frequency of Participation, Ages 25+

1. Running, Jogging and Trail Running 93.5 average outings per runner, 2.9 billion total outings
2. Bicycling (Road, Mountain and BMX)
52.2 average outings per cyclist,
1.3 billion total outings
3.Triathlon (Traditional/Road and Non-Traditional/Off Road)
48.3 average outings per triathlon participant, 60.5 million total outings
3. Birdwatching
39.1 average outings per birdwatcher, 405.2 million total outings
4. Skateboarding
32.9 average outings per skateboarder, 37.3 million total outings


Ages 25~44
Ages 45+

## ${ }_{6}^{\text {Ages }} 2011$ Positive Outdoor Trends

Participation in snowsports, such as telemarking, snowshoeing and freestyle skiing, has increased significantly over the past three years. Races, like triathlons and adventure races, have also seen an increase in participation during the past several years. From 2010 to 2011, recreational kayaking saw the largest increase in participation.

Trending Activities


## Outdoor Participation by Activity

|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \text { in 000's } \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2007 \\ \text { in 000's } \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2008 \\ \text { in 000's } \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2009 \\ \text { in 000's } \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2010 \\ \text { in 000's } \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2011 \\ \text { in 000's } \end{array}$ | 3 Year Change |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Adventure Racing | 725 | 698 | 920 | 1,089 | 1,339 | 1,065 | 15.8\% |
| Backpacking Overnight - More Than 1/4 Mile From Vehicle/ Home | 7,067 | 6,637 | 7,867 | 7,647 | 8,349 | 7,095 | -9.8\% |
| Bicycling (BMX) | 1,655 | 1,887 | 1,904 | 1,811 | 2,369 | 1,547 | -18.8\% |
| Bicycling (Mountain/Non-Paved Surface) | 6,751 | 6,892 | 7,592 | 7,142 | 7,161 | 6,816 | 5.9\% |
| Bicycling (Road/Paved Surface) | 38,457 | 38,940 | 38,114 | 40,140 | 39,320 | 40,349 | -10.2\% |
| Birdwatching More Than 1/4 Mile From Home/Vehicle | 11,070 | 13,476 | 14,399 | 13,294 | 13,339 | 12,794 | -11.2\% |
| Boardsailing/Windsurfing | 938 | 1,118 | 1,307 | 1,128 | 1,617 | 1,151 | -11.9\% |
| Camping (RV) | 16,946 | 16,168 | 16,517 | 17,436 | 15,865 | 16,698 | 1.1\% |
| Camping (Within 1/4 Mile of Vehicle/Home) | 35,618 | 31,375 | 33,686 | 34,338 | 30,996 | 32,925 | -2.3\% |
| Canoeing | 9,154 | 9,797 | 9,935 | 10,058 | 10,553 | 9,787 | -1.5\% |
| Climbing (Sport/Indoor/Boulder) | 4,728 | 4,514 | 4,769 | 4,313 | 4,770 | 3,650 | -23.5\% |
| Climbing (Traditional/Ice/ Mountaineering) | 1,586 | 2,084 | 2,288 | 1,835 | 2,198 | 1,618 | -29.3\% |
| Fishing (Fly) | 6,071 | 5,756 | 5,941 | 5,568 | 5,478 | 5,360 | -9.8\% |
| Fishing (Freshwater/Other) | 43,100 | 43,859 | 40,331 | 40,961 | 38,860 | 39,071 | -3.1\% |
| Fishing (Saltwater) | 12,466 | 14,437 | 13,804 | 12,303 | 11,809 | 11,880 | -13.9\% |
| Hiking (Day) | 29,863 | 29,965 | 32,511 | 32,572 | 32,496 | 34,491 | 6.1\% |
| Hunting (Bow) | 3,875 | 3,818 | 3,722 | 4,226 | 3,908 | 4,633 | 24.5\% |
| Hunting (Handgun) | 2,525 | 2,595 | 2,873 | 2,276 | 2,709 | 2,671 | -7.0\% |
| Hunting (Rifle) | 11,242 | 10,635 | 10,344 | 11,114 | 10,150 | 10,807 | 4.5\% |
| Hunting (Shotgun) | 8,987 | 8,545 | 8,731 | 8,490 | 8,062 | 8,678 | -0.6\% |
| Kayak Fishing | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1,044 | n/a | n/a |
| Kayaking (Recreational) | 4,134 | 5,070 | 6,240 | 6,212 | 6,465 | 8,229 | 31.9\% |
| Kayaking (Sea/Touring) | 1,136 | 1,485 | 1,780 | 1,771 | 2,144 | 2,029 | 14.0\% |
| Kayaking (White Water) | 828 | 1,207 | 1,242 | 1,369 | 1,842 | 1,546 | 24.5\% |
| Rafting | 3,609 | 4,616 | 4,651 | 4,318 | 4,460 | 3,821 | -17.9\% |
| Running/Jogging | 38,559 | 41,064 | 41,130 | 43,892 | 49,408 | 50,713 | 23.3\% |
| Sailing | 3,390 | 4,056 | 4,226 | 4,342 | 3,869 | 3,725 | -11.9\% |
| Scuba Diving | 2,965 | 2,965 | 3,216 | 2,723 | 3,153 | 2,579 | -19.8\% |
| Skateboarding | 10,130 | 8,429 | 7,807 | 7,352 | 6,808 | 5,827 | -25.4\% |
| Skiing (Alpine/Downhill) | n/a | 10,362 | 10,346 | 10,919 | 11,504 | 10,201 | -1.4\% |
| Skiing (Cross-Country) | n/a | 3,530 | 3,848 | 4,157 | 4,530 | 4,318 | 12.2\% |
| Skiing (Freestyle) | n/a | 2,817 | 2,711 | 2,950 | 3,647 | 3,641 | 34.3\% |
| Snorkeling | 8,395 | 10,294 | 10,296 | 9,358 | 9,305 | 9,318 | -9.5\% |
| Snowboarding | n/a | 6,841 | 7,159 | 7,421 | 8,196 | 7,572 | 5.8\% |
| Snowshoeing | n/a | 2,400 | 2,922 | 3,431 | 3,823 | 4,111 | 40.7\% |
| Stand Up Paddling | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1,050 | 1,242 | n/a |
| Surfing | 2,170 | 2,206 | 2,607 | 2,403 | 2,767 | 2,195 | -15.8\% |


| Telemarking (Downhill) | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | 1,173 | 1,435 | 1,482 | 1,821 | 2,099 | $46.3 \%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Trail Running | 4,558 | 4,216 | 4,857 | 4,833 | 5,136 | 5,610 | $15.5 \%$ |
| Triathlon (Non-Traditional/Off <br> Road) | 281 | 483 | 602 | 666 | 929 | 709 | $17.8 \%$ |
| Triathlon (Traditional/Road) | 640 | 798 | 1,087 | 1,208 | 1,978 | 1,393 | $28.2 \%$ |
| Wakeboarding | 3,046 | 4,083 | 3,544 | 3,577 | 3,645 | 3,389 | $-4.4 \%$ |
| Wildlife Viewing More Than $1 / 4$ <br> Mile From Home/Vehicle | 20,294 | 22,974 | 24,113 | 21,291 | 21,025 | 21,964 | $-8.9 \%$ |

## Methods

During January and February of 2012 a total of 38,172 online interviews were carried out with a nationwide sample of individuals and households from the US Online Panel of over one million people operated by Synovate. A total of 15,113 individual and 23,059 household surveys were completed. The total panel is maintained to be representative of the US population for people ages 6 and older. Over sampling of ethnic groups took place to boost response from typically under responding groups.

The 2011 participation survey sample size of 38,172 completed interviews provides a high degree of statistical accuracy. All surveys are subject to some level of standard error - that is, the degree to which the results might differ from those obtained by a complete census of every person in the US. A sport with a participation rate of five percent has a confidence interval of plus or minus 0.21 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. This translates to plus or minus four percent of participants.

A weighting technique was used to balance the data to reflect the total US population ages six and above. The following variables were used: gender, age, income, household size, region and population density. The total population figure used was 285,753,000 people ages six and older.

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## About The Outdoor Foundation

The Outdoor Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) established by Outdoor Industry Association to inspire and grow future generations of outdoor enthusiasts. Its vision is to be a driving force behind a massive increase in active outdoor recreation in America. For more information visit www. outdoorfoundation.org.
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