

Good day! I'm Allan Campbell, Youth Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Eureka. I'm filling in for Dr. Dan Price, our pastor today. I'll have to admit, and you could probably tell from my accent anyhow, that I'm not from around here. I was raised in Texas. What prompted my move here? I was brought to Humboldt because of my service in the US Coast Guard. Now I've noticed some definite changes in scenery and culture since I've been here – but something that quite frankly surprised me is that kids here seem to be just as bored as they do anywhere. As a youth pastor, my job is all about building relationships, and sharing the gospel with the next generation. But I've noticed and learned from kids here in this county that they have as little motivation to go outside as kids do anywhere. To say I'm an outdoorsman is an understatement. I fish, hunt, rock-climb, hike, mountaineer, ski, and just generally like being outside. One of the things that prompted me stay in Humboldt after I got out of the service was the attraction of all the outdoor activities that we have here. Every weekend can be a vacation. Growing up in the southern US, if I wanted to see mountains or lush forests we had to travel – a long ways. Here were immersed in it. But the more I talk with kids here about their lives, the more I'm surprised that on most weekends, they stay home and do little to nothing. This really surprises me! Where I'm from at least we had an excuse, it was hot! Here though the weather, when not raining, is still amicable to going outside. But I don't want to sit here and complain about the youth of this county – it's not entirely on them. I believe firmly that parents and caregivers should be sharing this unique opportunity with their kids. I know were all busy, and it takes a lot of effort to make a living here, but today I'm encouraging you. Take a kid outdoors. ^{make the time} Get them and

yourselves off the couch. We live within a stones throw of some of the best fishing in the United States. And with one of the best offshore salmon seasons in recent memory coming to a close, I can bet you that the rivers will be on fire soon. People travel to Humboldt from all over the world to see the natural wonders that occur here. Go visit Fern Canyon, Humboldt redwood state parks, the Trinity Alps, the beach, or any of the dozens of beautiful places that are close by. Now I'll also admit that outdoor recreation isn't always cheap, but I'd argue that every dollar you spend on gear is a few dollars you won't have to spend on health care when you get older cause your out of shape. Or at least that's the excuse I use on my wife to buy new tents, backpacks and fishing rods. Don't stay inside this weekend. Take the time to go do something productive with your kids. I guarantee you that when your kids are older, these will be the events that they will remember, that bonded ya'll as a family. I'm Allan Campbell, thanks for listening, and God bless.