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National Baptist Convention and Cabela's Outdoor Fund host Outdoor Event for Hundreds of Local Youth

Children, ages 8-15, enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities on Saturday, July 9

CHICAGO, Ill. (July 12, 2016) – The National Baptist Convention and Cabela's Outdoor Fund hosted hundreds of local children, ages 8-15, and their families for Camp NBC, an outdoor retreat at the Urban Stream Research Center in the Blackwell Forest Preserve on Saturday, July 9. Participants enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities and education including fishing, camping, and archery, among others.

"I caught my first fish and hit a target today with an arrow. I can't wait to do it all again. This was the best day ever," said Lee Watkins, a camp participant from Country Club Hills, Ill.

The event offered urban youth an opportunity to learn about outdoor activities and the positive experiences and relationships they can provide with family and friends. Local volunteers, including nearly 50 staff members from Cabela's Hoffman Estates, Ill., and Hammond, Ind., stores, assisted with the camp, offering tips and instructions on outdoor activities and gear.

In their second year partnering on these events, the National Baptist Convention and Cabela's Outdoor Fund are focused on introducing youth to positive hobbies and relationships that can last a lifetime.

"We may never know the full impact that this camp will have on the lives of these children, their families, their neighborhoods and the world. But when you see a child experience God's beautiful nature for the first time, in such an impactful way, you can look at their face and know that in some way, their world is going to be different because of what they experienced at Camp NBC," said Genesis Watkins, Strategic Partnership Director for National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

"This event was an amazing opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of these children and their families through outdoor activities," said Scott Wanetka, Vice President of Cabela's Outdoor Fund. "Our hope is that they left Camp NBC with new friends and an appreciation for the wonderful pastimes and relationships that outdoor activities can provide."

Along with a fun-filled day of outdoor activities and relationship building, youth in attendance were given opportunities to win a number of giveaways, including tents, coolers, chairs and Cabela's packs. Additionally, each participant left with a rod and reel combo and a tackle pack to call their own.

Last year, similar events were offered by the National Baptist Convention and Cabela's Outdoor Fund in four cities. That number has expanded to seven locations this year, and the two organizations hope to expand to additional locations and have a positive impact on thousands of children and families in the future. Pure Fishing, Easton and PSE have also partnered on the events, providing donated equipment and gear.

The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. is the largest predominantly African-American Christian denomination in the United States, with an estimated 7.5 million members. It is headquartered at the Baptist World Center in Nashville, Tenn., and operates under the leadership of its current president, Dr. Jerry Young. The National Baptist Convention has many outreach initiatives sponsored by its Home and Foreign Mission Auxiliaries and also continues to impact the lives of children and youth across this country through district, state and national departments for children and youth. Through this camp initiative, the National Baptist Convention hopes to expose children and youth to the outdoors in new ways so that they envision the future through a lens of faith, hope and opportunity.

Cabela's Outdoor Fund is a non-profit organization dedicated to efforts that promote and protect hunting, shooting sports, trapping, fishing, camping and conservation. This fund is possible through donations from generous Cabela's customers who choose to "round up" their purchases to the nearest dollar at Cabela's stores. The Cabela's Outdoor Fund contributes to other like-minded organizations in communities across the country working to make the great outdoors even better. Visit www.cabelas.com/outdoorfund to learn more.

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