WHEREAS, youth between the ages of 10 and 15 experience extensive developmental changes, with the attitudes and values they cultivate during this time largely determining their later behavior; and

WHEREAS, while young adolescents pay increased attention to their peer groups, parents, teachers, and community and business leaders contribute to their positive development during the transitional years from childhood to adolescence; and

WHEREAS, the Month of the Young Adolescent empowers young people to fulfill their potential by offering unique opportunities for positive development during a critical time in their lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 2005 as MONTH OF THE YOUNG ADOLESCENT throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to support the healthy development of our young adolescents.