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**Bay Area Explorer 4.0 Campaign Uses AR Gaming to Help Kids Engage with Nature, Proving that Screen Time Can be Green Time**

*Parks and Public Spaces across the Bay Area of California Participate in a Campaign to Engage Kids in Free Outdoor Learning Experiences on their Phones*

California – September 1st, 2023 – In response to the huge demand for fun free outdoor activities, partners, including [U.S Fish and Wildlife - Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/don-edwards-san-francisco-bay), [the National Park Service - San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park](https://www.nps.gov/safr/index.htm), [Santa Clara County Parks](https://parks.sccgov.org/home), [California State Parks- Seacliff State Beach](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=543), [Santa Cruz County](https://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/), [Oakland Zoo](https://www.oaklandzoo.org/), [BART,](https://www.bart.gov/) [Madera County,](https://www.maderacounty.com/) [City of Morgan Hill](https://www.morganhill.ca.gov/), and the [City of San Jose](https://www.sanjoseca.gov/) have come together to get people exploring, learning, and having fun with their families. The campaign uses [Agents of Discovery](https://agentsofdiscovery.com/)®, an educational technology platform that enables educators to create their own augmented reality games - think Pokemon GO for parks and education.

The Bay Area Explorer 4.0 Campaign will run until October 16th. Anyone can join in by downloading the free Agents of Discovery mobile app and completing “Missions”, or games at participating locations. Each Mission is made up of educational “Challenges” that teach players about local history, culture, ecosystems, and even safety. For example, at Hyde Street Pier, players can learn about life at sea. At another location, Martial Cottle, players can learn about agriculture within the Santa Clara Valley.

Ashley Wemp from Seacliff State Beach says “Agents of Discovery has proven to be an excellent way to involve park visitors in a fresh and captivating manner. Visitors have had the experience of gaining insightful knowledge about their park by completing enjoyable and informative games. This innovative platform entices individuals of all ages to step outdoors and immerse themselves in park settings, creating a truly novel and enriching experience.”

The Campaign includes amazing prizes to reward players, or “Agents” who participate. At each Mission site, players receive fun rewards, like badges or buttons. After completing 3 Missions or more, Agents are entered to win tickets to the City of San Jose’s Happy Hollow Park and Zoo. Agents who complete 6 or more Missions are entered to win a grand prize from either Stagecoach Greens, San Francisco Botanical Gardens, BART, and Oakland Zoo!

Missions can be found at the following locations: **San Francisco** - Three Missions at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, Four Missions on BART routes; **Oakland** - Oakland Zoo; **Fremont** - Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge; **Aptos** - Seacliff State Beach; **San Jose** - Hellyer County Park, Martial Cottle County Park, Vasona Lake County Park, Alum Rock Park, Emma Prusch Farm Park; **Watsonville/Gilroy** - Mount Madonna County Park; **City of Morgan Hill** - A Walk in the Park Challenge; **Madera County** - Madera County Courthouse Park, Madera County Library, North Fork, Oakhurst Community Park, Millerton Lake; **Chowchilla** - Veterans Memorial Park. For more information, check out the [Agents of Discovery website](https://agentsofdiscovery.com/bay-area-explorer/).

Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Staff say, "We are excited to be able to allow our visitors a new and different way to engage with and explore our parks using Agents of Discovery. Park visitors have really had fun with the AR components of the app.”

To download the free Agents of Discovery app, go to Google Play or the App Store. Once downloaded, find the Missions near you and download them before heading out. No data or WiFi is required to play a Mission once it has been downloaded.

**About Agents of Discovery**

Agents of Discovery, winner of the 2020 Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals Project Excellence Award, is an innovative educational tech platform that utilizes web, mobile and the latest in augmented reality technologies to get kids active and learning about the world around them. Agents of Discovery provides educators with a unique way to gamify information, incentivizing kids to be active while learning and exploring. The easy-to-use Mission Maker allows educators to pull Challenges from their extensive Agency Library or to create customized content specific to their site. Educators can then easily publish Missions for players to complete on their devices. For more information, please visit [www.agentsofdiscovery.com](http://www.agentsofdiscovery.com)