



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DC Explorer 5.0 Campaign Uses AR Gaming to Help Kids Engage with Nature, Proving that Screen Time Can be Green Time

Parks and Public Spaces across DC Participate in a Campaign to Engage Kids in Free Outdoor Learning Experiences on their phones

Washington – September 15th, 2023 – In response to the huge demand for free fun active outdoor experiences, partners including: [Columbia Gardens Cemetery](#), [The U.S. National Arboretum](#), [US Fish and Wildlife - Patuxent Research Refuge](#), [US Forest Service - City of Baltimore](#), [US Forest Service - USDA Urban Forest](#), [Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission - Watkins Nature Center](#), [US Fish and Wildlife - Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge](#), [West Virginia University](#), [Scenic America](#), [Guest Services Inc](#), [Frederick County](#), and [City of Rockville](#) have come together to get people exploring, learning, and having fun with their families. The campaign uses Agents of Discovery®, an educational technology platform that enables educators to create their own augmented reality games - think Pokemon Go for parks and education.

The DC Explorer will run until November 23rd. 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 safety. For example, in the Sustainable Recreation virtual tour Mission, the US Forest Service Agent Honey Bee will guide players to learn about Sustainable Recreation. At another location, the National Arboretum, players can learn about different types of trees and the critters that help them grow.

Derrick Crandall, Chair of The Corps Network’s Board of Directors and the President of Outdoor Solutions USA, says, “Agents of Discovery is a unique and potent tool for those of us dedicated

to continuing the tradition of the outdoors in our lives. It adds the attractions of video gaming to the healthy fun of time outdoors and is a relevant strategy for storytelling and learning. For parents, for teachers, and for the recreation community it is a resource for harnessing technology.”

The Campaign includes amazing prizes to reward players, or “Agents” who participate. At each Mission site, players receive fun rewards, like stickers or buttons. Agents who complete three Missions will be entered to win a Family pack (4 admission tickets) to the [Children’s Museum in Frederick County](#), a [\\$200 gift card to Bass Pro Shops](#) in Baltimore, Tickets to the [International Spy Museum](#), or tickets for a free pedal boat rental at [Tidal Basin](#).

Missions can be found in the following cities and parks: **Washington** - Columbia Gardens Cemetery, USDA Urban Forest, The National Arboretum, Scenic America Presents: Discovering the District: A Scenic America Adventure at the Tidal Basin; **Rockville** - Explore the Civic Center Park; **Baltimore** - Middle Branch Exploration Trail, Welcome to Leakin Park! Sustainable Recreation 2.0; **Woodbridge** - Painted Turtle Pond Mission, Fox Loop Mission; **Bowie** - Patuxent Research Refuge - National Wildlife Visitor Center, Patuxent Research Refuge – North Tract; **Frederick County** - Park Adventurer at Ballenger Creek Park, Waterways defender at Pinecliff Park Rd, Ag Explorer Mission at Snook farm in the Utica District Park; **Kettering** - Watkins Regional Park Nature Center; **Liverpool Point Rd, MD** - Mallows Bay Mission; **Lorton, VA** - Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area Mission, Discover Dinosaurs - (Play It At: Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area); **Play From Home** - Shipwrecks at Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and Scenic America Presents: Scenic Conservation for Everyone. For more information, check out the [Agents of Discovery website](#).

Bella, a naturalist at Watkins Nature Center, says: “Agents of Discovery is super unique because it allows the participants to learn more about local ecology, and connect themselves to nature in a fun and entertaining way.”

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 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

