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**Missouri Explorer 3.0 Campaign Uses AR Gaming to Help Kids Engage with Nature, Proving that Screen Time Can be Green Time**

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

Springfield – August, 2023 – In response to the huge demand for free fun active outdoor experiences, partners including: [Wonders of Wildlife](https://wondersofwildlife.org/), the [U.S. Forest Service - Mark Twain National Forest](https://www.fs.usda.gov/mtnf), the [Missouri Department of Conservation](https://mdc.mo.gov/), [Boone County,](https://www.showmeboone.com/) [Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum](https://bigcedar.com/top-of-the-rock/), [Dogwood Canyon](https://dogwoodcanyon.org/), and [Jefferson City Parks and Recreation](https://www.jcparks.com/) 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 Missouri Explorer will run until October 31st, 2023. 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, at the Mark Twain National Forest, players can learn about forest habitats and how to keep them safe. At another location, the Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium, players can learn about different types of animals and their habitats.

Ryan Hawkins, Education Manager at Dogwood Canyon, says, “The Agents of Discovery gaming platform has allowed us to create a cohesive, repeat-player program across all three Conservation Attractions. The platform invites guests to enhance their experience, providing additional education interpretation and engagement without the presence of education staff. We utilize a variety of mission types between our aquarium, museums, and nature trails, including public on-site missions using both physical and GPS triggers, as well as play-at-home missions which are available to the public. The Agents of Discovery augmented reality technology offers a truly unique and modern enhancement to our conservation and nature attractions.”

The Campaign includes amazing prizes to reward players, or “Agents” who participate. Once an Agent completes a Mission, they’ll earn a lanyard and a player card. If Agents complete three Missions, they will receive a Missouri Explorer Patch and they’ll be entered into a raffle to win tickets to the [Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium](https://wondersofwildlife.org/), [Dogwood Canyon Nature Park](https://dogwoodcanyon.org/), [Discovery Center](https://www.discoverycenter.org/), [Arabia Steamboat Museum](https://www.1856.com/), and [St.Louis Botanical Gardens](https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/). If they complete six Missions, they’ll fill out their player card and get upgraded to a new lanyard.

Missions can be found in the following locations: **Jefferson City -** Mission JC Parks: Ellis-Porter Riverside Park; **Ava -** Glade Top Trail - Caney Picnic Area; **Boone County, Columbia -** Water Festival; **Ridgedale -** Cave Trail in Autumn, Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum; **Dogwood Canyon Nature Park -** Tram Tour, Autumn at Dogwood Canyon; **Springfield -** Mission Conservation: Shark Week at Wonders of Wildlife, Wonders of Wildlife: Aquarium, Wonders of Wildlife: Wildlife Galleries, Wonders of Wildlife: Wildlife Galleries July and August 2023; Players can also **Play from Home with** **Mission Conservation** - Botany, Endangered Species, Ocean Awareness, World Ocean Day 2023, Zoos and Aquariums - Conservation Keepers and **Play from Home with** **Mark Twain National Forest** - Healthy Forest Adventure! For more information, check out the [Agents of Discovery website](https://agentsofdiscovery.com/bay-area-explorer/).

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](http://www.agentsofdiscovery.com)