

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Puget Sound Explorer 5.0 Campaign Uses AR Gaming to Gets Kids Outside and Proves that Green Time can be Screen Time**

*Parks and Public Spaces across the Puget Sound, WA Area Participate in a Campaign to Engage Kids in Free Indoor and Outdoor Learning Experiences on their Phones*

Seattle – July, 2023 – In response to the huge demand for free fun active outdoor experiences, partners including: [Metro Parks Tacoma](https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/), [WSU](https://extension.wsu.edu/chelan-douglas/youth/youthdevelopment/projects/aod/), [Pierce County Parks](https://www.piercecountywa.gov/114/Parks-Recreation), [City of Lakewood](https://www.lakewoodcity.org/Home), [Seattle Parks and Recreation](https://www.seattle.gov/parks), [Peninsula Metropolitan Park District](https://penmetparks.org/), [Pacific Science Center](https://pacificsciencecenter.org/), [Seattle-Tacoma International Airport](https://www.portseattle.org/sea-tac), [City of Yelm,](https://www.ci.yelm.wa.us/) [Mt Baker Snoqualmie National Forest,](https://www.fs.usda.gov/mbs) [Bainbridge Island](https://biparks.org/), [Kitsap County Public Works](https://www.kitsapgov.com/), [Miner’s Landing pier 57](https://www.minerslanding.com/), and many others 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 Puget Sound Explorer 5.0 Campaign will run July 1st to August 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 even safety. For example, in Tacoma, players can learn about the Mysteries of McKinley Park. At another location, the Pacific Science Center, players can play theIncredible Insects or World of Water Missions.

Campaign Chairperson, Holly Duskin, from the Pacific Science Centersays“Agents of Discovery is coming to Pacific Science Center this summer! Explore PacSci’s Tropical Butterfly House, Tinker Tank Makerspace, Dinosaur exhibits and more through an interactive, educational app that helps you dive deeper into our on-site experiences. Collect unique prizes at our Info Desk for each Mission you complete!”

The Campaign includes amazing prizes to reward players, or “Agents” who participate. At each site, players receive fun rewards like badges and buttons. Agents who complete: three Missions will receive a Puget Sound Explorer lanyard (available at some locations); six Missions will get a Grizzly Bear certificate and be entered to win an Adventure Backpack. After completing nine Missions, players are entered to win admission tickets to the [Pacific Science Center](https://pacificsciencecenter.org/), [Woodland Park Zoo](https://www.zoo.org/), [Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium](https://www.pdza.org/), or [Northwest Trek Wild Park](https://www.nwtrek.org/).

Missions can be found in the following cities: **Seattle** - Pacific Science Center, REI Seattle Flagship Store, Carkeek Park, Discovery Park; **Tacoma** - Titlow Park, Blueberry Park, Wright Park, Wapato Park, Swan Creek Park, Tacoma Nature Center; **City of Lakewood** - Fort Steilacoom Park; **Pierce County** - Ashford County Park, Meridian Habitat Park; **Snoqualmie Pass** - Gold Creek Pond; **Skykomish** - Iron Goat Trail; **Wenatchee** - 4-H Horan Natural Area, Orondo elementary school, and Barney's Rubble; **Miner’s Landing Pier 57** - Where are you on Pier 57?; **Bainbridge Island -** Battle Point Pond; **Washington State Parks -** Larrabee State Park; **Peninsula Metropolitan Park District** - McCormick Forest park; **SEA Airport -** Virtual Tour Mission (Can be accessed from anywhere!) **Kistap County -** Clear Creek Floodplain; **Mt. Baker** - Heather Meadows; and **The City of Yelm** For more information, check out the [Agents of Discovery Puget Sound Explorer website](https://agentsofdiscovery.com/puget-sound-explorer/).

Michele Cardinaux, Tacoma Nature Center Director at Metro Parks Tacoma says, “I love the Agents of Discovery program because it allows people to come visit the park whenever they want to, and play the game while they’re here.”

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)