

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Puget Sound Explorer 4.0 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 Outdoor Learning Experiences on their phones

Seattle – July 29, 2022 – In response to the huge demand for free fun active outdoor experiences, partners including: <u>Metro Parks Tacoma</u>, <u>WSU</u>, <u>Pierce County Parks</u>, <u>City of Lakewood</u>, <u>Seattle Parks and Recreation</u>, <u>Peninsula Metropolitan Park District</u>, <u>Pacific Science Center</u>, and <u>Miner's Landing at Pier 57</u> have come together to get people exploring, learning, and having fun with their families. The campaign uses <u>Agents of Discovery</u>®, 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 4.0 Campaign will run until September 9. 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 Franklin State Park Ghost Town, players can learn about coal mines and the history of Franklin State Park. At another location, the Pacific Science Center, players can learn about Astronauts and what life is like in space.

Campaign Chairperson, Holly Duskin, from the Pacific Science Center says "Agents of Discovery is coming to the 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 Adventure Backpacks. After completing nine Missions, players are entered to win admission tickets to the <u>Pacific Science Center</u>, <u>Woodland</u> <u>Park Zoo</u>, <u>Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium</u>, <u>Northwest Trek Wild Park</u>, or Seattle Great Wheel Tickets at <u>Miner's Landing at Pier 57</u>.

Missions can be found in the following cities: **Seattle** - Pacific Science Center, REI Seattle Flagship Store, Carkeek Park, Discovery Park, Miner's Landing at Pier 57; **Tacoma** - Titlow Park, McKinley Park, Wright Park, Lincoln Park, Swan Creek Park, Tacoma Nature Center; **City of Lakewood** - Fort Steilacoom Park; **Pierce County** - Ashford County Park, Cross Park & Naches Preserve, Frontier Park, Sprinker Recreation Center; **Gig Harbor** - Sehmel Homestead Park, McCormick Forest Park; **Snoqualmie Pass** - Gold Creek Pond; **Skykomish** - Iron Goat Trail; **Wenatchee** - 4-H Horan Natural Area; **Mt. Baker** - Heather Meadows. For more information, check out the <u>Agents of Discovery website</u>.

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. It's very simple - the dashboard is easy to use, and Agents of Discovery is a great way to get out the messages that you want to get out when you want to get them out."

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 <u>www.agentsofdiscovery.com</u>