A Walk Through Time: Missouri Cemeteries Challenge

Missouri cemeteries provide a glimpse into the past, not only of people and the landscape, but also of the state’s diverse political, social, military, art, and religious history. A Walk Through Time: Missouri Cemeteries Challenge invites you to explore Missouri’s rich history and culture through some of its historic cemeteries.

A Walk Through Time: Missouri Cemeteries Challenge is sponsored by Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum. Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum was created as a garden cemetery in 1849 and spans 314 acres. It is an accredited level 2 Arboretum on the Morton scale and remains active to this day as a nonsectarian cemetery, accepting of all: Yesterday*Today*Forever.

A Walk Through Time: Missouri Cemeteries Challenge ... Visit 6 sites within at least 4 counties. Remember: Missouri Explorers must be registered in the program, and they are responsible for checking hours and availability of sites. Upload your verification photographs using the online submission form at https://missouri2021.org/missouri-explorers/ to receive your merit badge button.

Remember, Missouri Explorers, you are responsible for checking hours and availability of sites before arriving.

And a special reminder, Missouri Explorers: be mindful that these sites contain the final resting places of loved ones, and many of these sites are still in active use. Remember your pledge to be respectful of your surroundings and respect the privacy of families conducting burial services.

Boone County

Jewell Cemetery State Historic Site
S. Providence Road
Columbia, Missouri
573-449-7402

Jewell Cemetery contains the graves of Missouri’s 22nd governor, Charles Hardin, along with decedents of George Jewell, including William Jewell, who established William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri. Snap a photograph by William Jewell’s burial site.

http://www.mountmora.com/

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Mount Mora Cemetery, established in 1851, is the oldest operating cemetery in St. Joseph, Missouri. It is rich with history and contains the final resting places of early pioneers to the area, three Missouri governors, and two Pony Express Riders. Snap a photograph next to the burial site of Pony Express rider Charley Cliff.

http://www.mountmora.com/

Clay County

Mt. Memorial Cemetery
500 College Hill
Liberty, Missouri
816-439-4537

Mt. Memorial Cemetery has been in use since the 1820s and is located on William Jewell

Please note: the cemetery follows college guidelines about COVID. Social distancing and masks are required.

Buchanan County

Mount Mora Cemetery
824 Mount Mora
St. Joseph, Missouri
816-232-8471
College campus. Snap a photograph next to “The Old Graveyard” plaque describing the cemetery.

https://www.visitmo.com/things-to-do/mt-memorial-cemetery

Greene County

Springfield National Cemetery
1702 East Seminole Street
Springfield, Missouri
417-881-9499

Springfield National Cemetery was established in 1867. The cemetery contains burials of veterans from the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and World War II. Snap a photograph by the Pearl Harbor Memorial.

https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/springfield.asp

Jackson County

George Historic Cemetery and Heritage Park
37201 E. Hillside School Road
Oak Grove, Missouri
816-537-8814

The cemetery is located at Church and Hillside School Road.

The George Historic Cemetery was established in 1840 by the family of David C. George. The family migrated to Jackson County, Missouri, in Fall 1836. The cemetery’s goal is to be a learning experience for all ages regarding pioneer life, the Border War and Civil War. Solve the riddle: “One Body, Two Headstones, Two Dates of Death.” Snap a photograph by the grave that answers the riddle.


Lee’s Summit Historical Cemetery
806 SE 3rd Street
Lee’s Summit, Missouri
816-969-1590

Lee’s Summit Historical Cemetery was established in 1867. It is the resting place of many local notable Missourians. Snap a photograph next to an example of Victorian era cemetery symbolism on a gravestone: a dog, representing loyalty, or a lion, representing courage/resurrection.

https://cityofls.net/parks/facilities/historical-cemeteries

Union Cemetery
227 E. 28th Terrace
Kansas City, Missouri
816-472-4990

Union Cemetery was established in 1857 and is the oldest public cemetery in Kansas City, Missouri. It contains burials of veterans from various wars and the burial site of artist George Caleb Bingham. Snap a landscape photograph (including yourself in the image) of the cemetery.

https://kcparks.org/places/union-cemetery-sextons-cottage/

Jefferson County

Gov. Daniel Dunklin’s Grave State Historic Site
104 Dunklin Drive
Herculaneum, Missouri
636-464-2976

The gravesite of Missouri’s fifth governor, Daniel Dunklin. He is known as the “father” of public schools. Snap a photograph next to the gravesite, including the gravesite walls.


Saline County

Sappington Cemetery State Historic Site
County Road AA
Nelson, Missouri
660-837-3330
Sappington Cemetery is the resting place of prominent area doctor, Dr. John Sappington. The site also contains burials of two Missouri governors. Snap a photograph beside the State Historic Site plaque.

https://mostateparks.com/park/sappington-cemetery-state-historic-site

Ste. Genevieve County

Ste. Genevieve Memorial Cemetery
35 N. Fifth Street
Ste. Genevieve, Missouri
573-883-9622

Ste. Genevieve’s Memorial Cemetery was established in 1787 and contains the tombs of the area’s earliest French pioneers. It is a contributing site to both the Ste. Genevieve Historic District and National Landmark District. Snap a photograph by the cemetery entrance.


St. Louis City

Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum
4947 West Florissant Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri
314-381-0750

Please note: social distancing is required with at least 6-feet distance from other visitors.

To traverse the 314 acres and 14 miles of roadway, please stop at Bellefontaine’s office at 4947 W. Florissant Avenue. The “White Line” tour map will guide you to William Clark’s final rest place. Explorer, Territorial Governor, and pivotal person in Missouri’s bicentennial, Clark’s monument is No. 26 on the map. While there, reflect that in its day, this location gave a view to the river below where William Clark and Meriwether Lewis set out on their famous Corps of Discovery. Snap a photograph beside William Clark’s bust, the bison, wolf, or obelisk.

https://bellefontainecemetery.org/destination/horticulture/

St. Louis County

Fee Fee Cemetery
8430 Gravois Road
St. Louis, Missouri
314-739-2415

Please note: The interior of the cemetery office is ONLY for official cemetery business and is not open to the public. Masks must be worn at the cemetery and guests are limited to 10 people at a time.

Fee Fee Cemetery is one of the oldest active cemeteries in the St. Louis area, with its first burial in 1822. Located on the southwest corner of Fee Fee Road and Old St. Charles Road, it is a 12.86-acre site with over 4,000 interments. Fee Fee is the final resting place for some of the earliest settlers in North St. Louis County and veterans from the American Revolutionary War through the Vietnam War. Take the self-guided cemetery tour – found at the link below and on the cemetery’s website – and snap a photograph beside the monument for Fee Fee preachers.

http://www.feefeecemetery.com/cemetery-grounds/

New Mt. Sinai Cemetery and Mausoleum
8430 Gravois Road
St. Louis, Missouri
314-353-2540

Please note: The cemetery follows St. Louis County COVID guidelines.

New Mt. Sinai Cemetery was established in 1850. It is the resting place of notable Missourians who have contributed greatly to the state, including many department store moguls, such as Charles A. Stix. Snap a photograph next to Charles A. Stix’s burial site, located in Section N-Lot 4 of the cemetery.

Self-guided tour map:
https://newmtsinaicemetery.org/