

Missouri Conservation Challenge

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) works with citizens to conserve Missouri's fish, forest, and wildlife resources and to help people discover nature. With more than 1,000 conservation areas and 1 million acres of public land managed by MDC, most Missourians are within 30-minutes, if not closer, to green space. There are so many ways to connect with the nature, including hiking, canoeing, bird watching, fishing, hunting or spending time at an MDC nature center. Studies show that time spent in nature reduces stress, improves concentration, and boosts your physical and mental health. What are you waiting for this summer? Grab your friends and family to go explore Missouri's great outdoors!

*Missouri Conservation Challenge is sponsored by the **Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)**. The MDC protects and manages the fish, forest, and wildlife of the state. It facilitates and provides opportunities for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about these resources. The MDC helps Missourians connect with the outdoors. Their goal is to sustain diverse, healthy plant and animal communities — well into the future.*

Missouri Conservation Challenge ... Complete at least 5 activities. 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.

Go fishing!

Visit your favorite pond, lake, river, or stream and go fishing! Check out the MDC website for the fishing season dates for your favorite species and purchase your fishing permit. Snap your photograph at the site with the catch of the day!

<https://mdc.mo.gov/fishing>

Go hiking!

Take a walk by yourself or with a group on your favorite state, city, county, or park trail. Snap your photograph at the trail head before your adventure.

<https://mdc.mo.gov/>

Visit a nature center!

Missouri's nature and interpretive centers help you and your family connect with nature through

exhibits, events, and trails. Visit the MDC website to find one of the centers nearest you! Snap your photograph at the center sign.

<https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/nature-centers>

Discover the outdoors!

It's as easy as stepping out your door! Explore the natural world around you. Snap a photograph of wildflowers or wildlife.

Engage online!

Visit the MDC website and sign up for the free Missouri Conservationist magazine or Xplor kids magazine. Snap a photograph of your registration form.

<https://mdc.mo.gov/>



Get connected on the go!

Download one of the free MDC apps on your Android or iPhone. Snap a photograph of the icon on your phone.

<https://mdc.mo.gov/contact-engage/mobile-apps>

Become an Agent of Discovery!

Looking for a new way to explore and learn about Missouri's outdoors? Check out the free mobile gaming app, Agents of Discovery. Discover nature through completing "missions," all while learning about Missouri's forest, fish, and wildlife. Snap your photograph of a completed mission at a nature center or the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia.

<https://discovertheforest.org/activities/agents-of-discovery>

Get your aim on!

Regardless of your shooting experience or skill level, practice makes perfect! Visit one of MDC's five Outdoor Education Center – Staffed Shooting Ranges. Snap your photograph next to the facility sign.

<https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/shooting-ranges>

Get with the program!

Attend an in-person program at an MDC nature or education center, interpretive site, or participate in an MDC virtual program. Snap your photograph at the program site or of the virtual program.

<https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/nature-centers>

Go camping!

There is something about sitting around a campfire and gazing up at the stars—whether it's at an official campsite or right in your backyard. Snap your photograph camping with friends or family.

Eat naturally and Missouri grown!

There is nothing better than fresh food straight from a farmers' market or your own garden. Snap a photograph with your own bit of nature's bounty.

<https://missourigrownusa.com/>