

The Way of American Genius Challenge

Missouri is home to innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders who have and continue to shape American history, life, and culture. The Way of American Genius Challenge invites you to explore the lives and legacies of Missourians who left their mark on not just the state but the nation.

*The Way of American Genius Challenge is sponsored by the **Missouri Highway 36 Association**. The mission of the Missouri Highway 36 Association is to cultivate the educational experience and the economic wellbeing of the Missouri Highway 36 corridor by fostering a greater appreciation of its natural, cultural, and historic resources by identifying and promoting the theme “The Way of American Genius”: those individuals and innovations that have uniquely defined and influenced American culture, and character.*

The Way of American Genius Challenge ... Visit 10 sites in at least 5 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.

Adair County

Dr. Andrew T. Still Monument

106 W. Washington Street
Kirksville, Missouri

Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, founder of osteopathic medicine and founder of the American School of Osteopathy in Kirksville, is memorialized on the grounds of the Adair County Courthouse. Snap your photograph at the feet of this medical pioneer.

Museum of Osteopathic Medicine

800 W. Jefferson Street
Kirksville, Missouri
660-262-2359

The Museum of Osteopathic Medicine tells the story of Dr. A. T. Still and the development of osteopathy. The main galleries are currently closed due to COVID, but the Medicinal Gardens are open to visitors. Snap your photograph in the Garden Pavilion among the local plants used for medicinal purposes.



<https://www.atsu.edu/museum-of-osteopathic-medicine/>

Buchanan County

Coleman Hawkins Statue

Felix Street and Seventh Street
St. Joseph, Missouri

Jazz saxophone innovator Coleman Hawkins was born in St. Joseph on November 21, 1904. Snap your photograph at the statue placed in his honor.

Pony Express Monument

910 Frederick Avenue
St. Joseph, Missouri

The Pony Express Statue was unveiled in St. Joseph, Missouri, on April 20, 1940, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Pony Express. Snap your picture at the base of the statue as the horse appears to leap ahead with the encouragement of the rider.

Pony Express National Museum \$

914 Penn Street
St. Joseph, Missouri
800-530-5930

Open Mon-Sat 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Sun 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Housed in the Pony Express stables in St. Joseph, the Pony Express National Museum tells the story of the brave men who transported mail across the American frontier. Masks are required. Snap your photograph at the exact spot Johnny Frye left from on April 3, 1860, marked by "Moment in Time."

<https://ponyexpress.org/>

St. Joseph Museum \$

3406 Frederick Avenue
St. Joseph, Missouri
816-232-8471

Open Mon-Fri 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

The St. Joseph Museum Complex houses the Gloré Psychiatric Museum, the Black Archives Museum, the Doll Museum, the Native American and History Galleries, the Eckel Collection, and the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion. Masks are currently required and only 25 visitors are allowed in at a time. Visitors are asked to follow proper social distancing guidelines. Snap your photograph at Lines and Legacies: The Harry L. George Collection.

<https://www.stjosephmuseum.org/>

Walter Cronkite Memorial

4525 Downs Drive
St. Joseph, Missouri
816-271-4199

Open Mon-Fri 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

The Walter Cronkite Memorial celebrates the career of St. Joseph native Walter Cronkite. Masks are required. Snap your photograph sitting behind the replica of Cronkite's studio desk.

<https://wcm.missouriwestern.edu/>

Caldwell County**J. C. Penney Boyhood Home**

E. R. Penney and N. Davis Street
Hamilton, Missouri

In 1988, J.C. Penney's boyhood home was saved from razing and moved to the center of Hamilton. It sits on the site of the former railroad depot and has been renovated outside. Masks are currently required. Snap your photograph at the picture showing the movement of the boyhood home from its original site to a site in town.

J. C. Penney Museum

312 N. Davis Street
Hamilton, Missouri

Call the Hamilton Library for information: 816-583-4832.

Open Tues, Weds, Fri 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

The J.C. Penney Memorial Library and Museum was built with donations, many from former Penney Co. managers, and dedicated in 1976. Masks are currently required. Snap your photograph at the statue of JC Penny.

<http://www.cityofhamiltonmo.com/jcpenney/museum.htm>

Linn County**General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home State Historic Site**

1100 Pershing Drive
Laclede, Missouri
660-963-2525

Call for current hours.

Explore a piece of America's military history and learn about the experiences that molded a Laclede County boy into one of the nation's legendary generals. Pershing and his family moved into the nine-room Gothic-style house in

Laclede when he was six. Snap your photograph at the stature of General Pershing.

<https://www.mostateparks.com/park/gen-john-j-pershing-boyhood-home-state-historic-site>

Walt Disney Hometown Museum

120 E. Santa Fe Street
Marceline, Missouri
660-376-3343

Open Tue-Sat 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Sun 1:00-5:00 p.m.

The Walt Disney Hometown Museum was established in 2001 to help celebrate the 100th Birthday of Marceline's favorite son, Walter Elias Disney. See Disney memorabilia from all over the world in the Collectors Gallery and the overall theme of inspiration displayed in the Upper Gallery. Dotted amongst the museum treasures are unique 'Story Stations' that help tell the Disney family's Marceline tale. All guests are required to wear a mask within the museum and maintain adequate social distancing between visiting groups. Hand sanitizing stations are located at the entrance and in every restroom. Snap your photograph next to the Engineer Mickey statue located in the Collectors Gallery.

<https://waltdisneymuseum.org/>

Livingston County

Grand River Museum

1401 Forest Drive
Chillicothe, Missouri
660-646-1341

Open Weds, Sat, Sun 1:00-4:00 p.m.

The Grand River Museum showcases the history of Chillicothe and surrounding area and features an original sliced bread machine. If you call ahead, you might even get a demonstration! Masks are optional. Snap your photograph in front of the original Rohwedder Bread slicer on loan from the Smithsonian in Washington D.C.

<https://www.chillicothemuseum.com/>

Home of Sliced Bread Mural

709 Washington Street
Chillicothe, Missouri

The mural showcasing Chillicothe's sliced bread history is located on the west side of the building housing The Clipper on Washington Street, north of the Livingston County Courthouse. It measures 27 by 45 feet and depicts Locust Street as it looked around the turn of the century. Snap your photograph in front of the greatest thing since sliced bread!

<http://www.homeofslicedbread.com/breadmural.html>

Sliced Bread Innovation Center

100 Elm Street
Chillicothe, Missouri
660-240-0753

Open Sat 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Created by Iowa inventor Otto Rohwedder, the bread slicer was put into practice in 1928 in downtown Chillicothe. A product of the Chillicothe Baking Company, the bread was sliced on a machine called the Rohwedder Bread Slicer. Snap your photograph the Home of Sliced Bread sign.

<https://www.facebook.com/SlicedBreadInnovationCenter/>

Marion County

Jim's Journey

509 N. Third Street
Hannibal, Missouri
217-617-1507

Hours by appointment.

Jim's Journey serves as a memorial to Daniel Quarles, the model for Jim in Twain's novel The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, as well as a testament to the African American experience in Hannibal and Marion County. Snap your photograph outside the Freedom Center.

<https://jimsjourney.org/>

Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum \$
120 N. Main Street
Hannibal, Missouri
573-221-9010

Open Mon-Sun 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

The mission of the Mark Twain Home Foundation is to promote awareness and appreciation of the life and works of Mark Twain and to demonstrate the relevance of his stories and ideas to citizens of the world. Snap your photograph outside the house where the Clemens family lived from 1844 to 1853.

<https://marktwainmuseum.org/>

Mark Twain Statue (Riverview Park)
2000 Harrison Hill
Hannibal, Missouri

Enjoy nature in 465 acres of forested land offering scenic views of the Mississippi River. The park was officially entered in the National Register for Historic Places in 2005. Snap your photograph at the feet of Mark Twain.

<https://www.hannibalparks.org/parks/riverview-park/>

Molly Brown Birthplace and Museum \$
600 Butler Street
Hannibal, Missouri
573-221-2477

The “Unsinkable” Molly Brown was born in Hannibal in 1867 at the outset of Hannibal’s Gilded Age. Visit the small cottage where Maggie Tobin was born, long before she became the “Unsinkable” Molly Brown. Hear tales of her childhood and learn how her experiences while living in Hannibal would influence her throughout her life. Snap your photograph in front of the “TITANIC” sign.

<https://www.visithannibal.com/attractions/museums/molly-brown-birthplace-museum/>

Haunted Hannibal Ghost Tour \$

Hannibal History Museum
200 N. Main Street
Hannibal, Missouri
573-248-1819

Tours 7 nights a week starting at 5:30 p.m.

Haunted Hannibal Ghost Tours are available year-round! Masks are currently optional. Climb aboard the shuttle and enjoy a spine-tingling guided tour of many of Hannibal’s most notoriously haunted sites, both past and present! Each tour includes a guided exploration of Old Baptist Cemetery, where you will walk amongst the graves of enslaved Blacks and Civil War soldiers to search for signs of paranormal activity! Snap your photograph at Agness’ grave at the end of the tour. Maybe you’ll catch a ghost on camera!

<https://www.hauntedhannibal.com/>

Monroe County

Mark Twain Birthplace State Historic Site
37352 Shrine Road
Florida, Missouri
573-565-3449

Call for current hours.

*Visit the two-room rented cabin Samuel Clemens was born in. You’ll see first editions of many of the author’s works, a handwritten manuscript of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and many of the furnishings from Twain’s Connecticut home. Snap your photograph in front of the birthplace marker.*

<https://mostateparks.com/park/mark-twain-birthplace-state-historic-site>

Platte County

TerraVox Vineyards
1099 Welt Street
Weston, Missouri 64098
816-386-2156

Call for current hours.

TerraVox is a 100% estate vineyard and winery located in the heart of the Midwest, just outside of Kansas City, Missouri. TerraVox is dedicated to cultivating American Heritage Grapes, an effort that they hope will show the great potential of North America's native grape varieties. They focus on producing award-winning, food-friendly, dry style wines. Snap your photograph with your favorite TerraVox vintage at their tasting room.

<https://www.voxvineyards.com/>

Randolph County

General Omar Bradley Statue and War Memorial in Rothwell Park

S Holman Road
Moberly, Missouri

Visit the General Omar Bradley Statue in Rothwell Park and snap your photograph at the feet of the General.

<http://moberly.com/omarbradley Memorial/>

Randolph County Historical Society

223 N Clark Street
Moberly, Missouri
660-263-9396

Call for current hours.

Learn about the life and military career of Moberly native General Omar Bradley. Snap your photograph at the Bradley exhibit.

<https://www.facebook.com/RandolphCountyHistoricalSociety/>