



“My students always rave about the teaching and their experiences with the elementary students.”

—ECO-ACT High School Teacher

About ECO-ACT

The Missouri Botanical Garden’s ECO-ACT program fosters understanding of and respect for the natural world while enhancing personal leadership skills and self-confidence in high school juniors and seniors. Participants make friends with other teens from throughout the St. Louis area and train to become environmental educators. Activities promote individual and group action for the environment while offering challenging outdoor adventure experiences.



“The outings allowed me to experience things which I have never done in the past, and without ECO-ACT I would not have experienced.”

—Connor E., St. Mary’s H.S.

For more information

Visit our website at www.mobot.org/education/ecoact or call the ECO-ACT Program Coordinator at (314) 577-9482

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**ECO
ACT** The Saigh Foundation
Environmental
Leadership
Program



“Not only has my interest in the environment increased, but now I feel like I have a way to express what I have learned and what others can do.”

—Kate L., Nerinx Hall H.S.



PITCH A TENT. TEACH A CHILD. TAKE THE LEAD.

ECO ACT The Missouri Botanical Garden’s ECO-ACT program is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for St. Louis area high school students. You’ll learn about ecology and environmental issues through teaching younger students—and you’ll also do things like rock climbing and caving. You can even earn course credit for your commitment.

Take action

You’ll target, research, and take action on environmental issues relevant to the St. Louis area. Summer training provides a crash course in issues investigation that you’ll apply to a larger-scale project during the year.

Teach

You and your fellow ECO-ACT students will teach weekly ecology and conservation lessons in a fourth grade classroom. Topics include Missouri’s endangered species and water conservation. Then you’ll help bring those topics to life by leading two field trips to explore Missouri’s natural environment.

Explore

Ever gone caving? How about rock climbing? A three-day trip on the Meramec River and exciting weekend outings in nature will give you the chance to try activities like these and more. At the same time, you’ll develop outdoor living and student leadership skills.

What you’ll give:

- One hour of class time each week to teach younger students
- Three weeks for summer training in environmental issues, outdoor skills, and teaching
- Two weekends for outings like rock climbing, caving, and canoeing
- Ten afternoons for after-school workshops at the Missouri Botanical Garden
- Personal dedication to a teaching and researching team

What you’ll get:

- Science elective or community service credit
- Understanding of environmental issues
- Friendships with students from other schools
- Time management, teamwork, and presentation skills
- Respect from younger students
- Courage to try new things
- Teaching and leadership experience
- Outdoor living skills

Summer Program

During the summer, which includes 12 days of programming over three weeks in June, July, and August, you’ll gain teaching and leadership skills while taking part in the following activities:

WEEK ONE: Camp out in the Missouri Botanical Garden, visit local sites to conduct research on an environmental issue, and get to know your fellow ECO-ACTors.

WEEK TWO: Get ready for an adventure and take off on a three-day canoe trip on the Meramec River.

WEEK THREE: Gain teaching skills and become familiar with ECO-ACT activities through workshops and teaching practice.

School Year Program

During the school year, you’ll research and present an environmental issue and develop and teach a class on it. Your commitments include an ECO-ACT class during the school day. Once a week, you’ll teach in a fourth grade classroom. Every month, you return to the Missouri Botanical Garden for after-school workshops. You may also select one weekend adventure outing each semester.

“Knowing that I made a change in these children’s lives motivated me. It was also rewarding to teach the children because I was able to watch them grow.”

—Kenitria R., Metro H.S.