

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 canoeing. You can even earn course credit for your commitment.

This program has taught me so much about myself and the environment. What I really liked was the hands-on approach...this program lets me interact with others while learning at the same time. It was great.

—Drew B.



About ECO-ACT

The Missouri Botanical Garden's ECO-ACT program is an interdisciplinary, experiential science course that fosters understanding of and respect for the natural world. High school juniors and seniors learn valuable ecology and environmental science content through visits with experts, exploration outdoors, research projects, and serving as educators in elementary classrooms. Activities promote individual and group action for the environment while providing participants with leadership experience and connections to a network of diverse teens.

More Information

Call the ECO-ACT Program Supervisor
at (314) 577-0241 or visit
www.mobot.org/teenprograms.

Part of the MBG
TeenNetwork



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
4344 Shaw Blvd. • St. Louis, MO 63110 • www.mobot.org

 Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

1/15



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

ECO ACT

The Saigh Foundation

**Environmental
Leadership
Program**



TAKE THE LEAD
TEACH & LEARN
EXPERIENCE SOMETHING NEW



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 an elementary classroom. Topics include food webs, ecosystems, 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 rock climbing? How about on an extended bike trip? 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.

“The next morning was exhilarating. I was so proud of myself for doing the tree climb and for going as high as I did. It was gorgeous out there, and I almost felt like I was flying. It was a spectacular experience.”
—Kate H.

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 and biking
- 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 and ecology
- 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

“The main things students gain from ECO-ACT are: self-confidence, the ability to work with others, and an invaluable skill set (teaching, data gathering & analysis, ecology principles) to bring to college.”
—High school teacher

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 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 then develop an action project on it. You'll also teach an ECO-ACT class once a week in an elementary classroom. You'll attend after-school workshops at the Garden every month and go on a weekend adventure outing each semester.