



Be a *Habitat Hero*

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How can I help?

There are ways for you to be a Habitat Hero in your everyday life. Treat trees kindly in our forests; harming trees destroys animal habitats. Visit <http://gardenclub.org/projects/backyard-wildlife-habitat.aspx> and become a Habitat Hero.

Learn how to make more environmentally conscious decisions every day. Do your part to protect the environment and make Missouri greener.

Activity

In your newspaper, find an article about a person or group of people who are Habitat Heroes. Write a paragraph on why you chose that individual or group.

Share your thoughts with your classmates. You might want to invite that person or group to speak to your classmates.

Young Missourians can help protect the environment

Young people can unite with the National Garden Club to protect the environment by embarking on a learning adventure as a Missouri Habitat Hero. But what are habitats?

Plants and animals need air, soil, water, sunlight and proper climate to survive. Combinations of these life-giving ingredients are called habitats. Whales live in ocean habitats, deer in forest habitats and beavers in aquatic stream habitats.

Missouri's habitats include grasslands, forests, streams, river bottomlands, caves and wetlands. Grasslands or prairies once covered northern and western Missouri. When Lewis and Clark crossed Missouri, thousands of bison roamed here.

Agriculture and other human development have replaced most prairie habitats. The prairie kingsnake is still common in Missouri. It is non-venomous and kills prey by constricting. Kingsnakes are immune to venom of other snakes.

Oak-hickory forests cover much of eastern and southern Missouri. Nuts from these trees provide food for animals. In the 1800s, turkey were common in the forests. In the early 1900s, forests were cut for lumber, overgrazed by livestock, and burned. Turkeys were endangered because of destroyed habitat. Now turkeys are abundant thanks to a 1950s restoration program.