

The Urban Populations Outreach Project

Beginnings

In an effort to address the under-representation of urban dwellers in attendance of state parks and historic sites, the Missouri Parks Association set out to organize a summer youth enrichment program for Missouri's under-privileged urban population. The program, Urban Populations Outreach Project (UPOP), was developed with the purpose of providing services which increase awareness and appreciation of Missouri's beautiful state parks and fascinating historic sites. Sponsored field trips are offered, in coordination with local summer youth programs, to provide optimal educational experiences in nature and history that youths will remember positively for years to come. The Urban Populations Outreach Project is dedicated to the notion that experiences such as these contribute to the wholeness of self for participating youths in Kansas City, St. Louis -- and now smaller cities like Columbia and Joplin -- through awareness of the beauty and life experiences that Missouri has to offer.

Missouri Parks Association

Mission

The Missouri Parks Association is a non-profit, volunteer based educational organization that believes in fulfilling the mission of preserving Missouri's intrinsic landscapes and cultural landmarks for the benefit of all Missourians. The organization, founded in 1982, has served as a catalyst in the advocacy of sensible use and sound management of Missouri's excellent state parks and historic sites. The Missouri Parks Association serves as a citizen support group for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' State Parks Division, and has worked tirelessly to ensure the continued growth and improvement of the state parks for the years ahead.

Urban Populations Outreach Program



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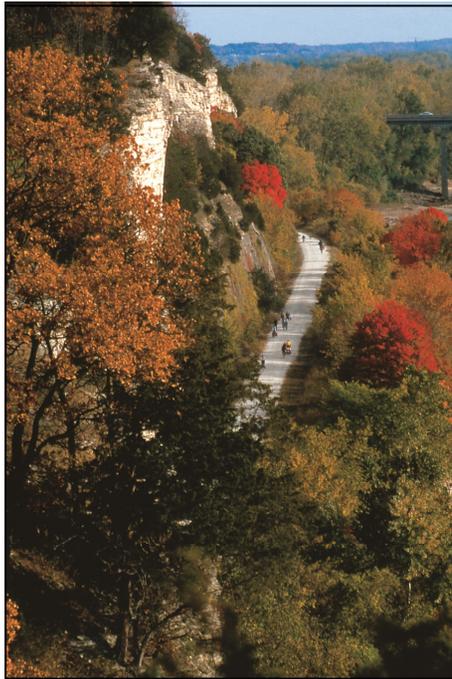
Urban Populations Outreach Project

Each summer since 2000, the Missouri Parks Association is again sponsoring its Urban Populations Outreach Project (UPOP).

The Urban Populations Outreach Project provides field trips to Missouri's beautiful parks and historic sites for

hundreds of urban youths from the St. Louis, Kansas City and Columbia urban cores and several southwest Missouri communities. With past success and increasing interest, we look

forward to providing expanded and better services to urban youth each year. Private support is essential to the success of our program. The Missouri Parks Association needs assistance with the costs of transportation, meals and field trip expenses for students participating in our UPOP program.



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The Urban Populations Outreach Project provides enriching life experiences to disadvantaged youth. The program is intended to give youngsters knowledge and appreciation of Missouri's bountiful state park system and state historic sites. The field trips offered allow these kids an experience they may not otherwise have encountered, thus strengthening their sense of community, culture and ecological awareness. This program is designed to give the urban leaders of tomorrow a taste of life outside the city's urban core, hence lending itself to positive self enrichment.

The activities are free so that youngsters can take part in our program regardless of their economic ability. All costs associated with UPOP programs are paid by MPA, its corporate sponsors or coordinating youth agencies -- *and special MPA member gifts.*

Learning and appreciation through exposure to our park system is our journey's purpose. We delight in attempting to make our urban communities a better place through the development of our children. The Urban Populations Outreach Project is a non-profit program striving to make a positive impact on many communities and on the lives of our cities' young people.

To monitor program success, the Urban Populations Outreach Project pro-

vides field trip evaluation forms to staff participants following field trips. On a scale of 1 to 10, our program has averaged an 8.5 or better success rate each and every year.

All costs associated with the program are paid by the Missouri Parks Association through your membership and special gifts from individuals, corporations and foundations interested in helping make a positive impact on the lives of our cities' youth. Expenses include bus transportation to and from sites, lunches and/or snacks and equipment needs for all field trips.

Special gifts -- *above and beyond annual dues* -- continue to be the vital difference for the successful and growing Urban Populations Outreach Project!

