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Get In the Picture This 4th of July!

This Fourth of July, and all summer long, grab your camera and head outdoors to become part of an online photo mosaic being compiled from thousands of photos.

Get outside and celebrate freedom and independence from being indoors by visiting a national wildlife refuge, a national fish hatchery -- or even a stream or woods in your own neighborhood. Then share your best photo of you and your family enjoying nature with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its "Let's Go Outside" photo project. Submissions for the photo mosaic are being accepted from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Here's all you have to do:

1. Head for the outdoors – whether your backyard, a local park or a nearby national wildlife refuge. (There's a national wildlife refuge within an hour's driving distance of most major American cities.) And don't forget your digital camera.
2. Photograph a friend or family member enjoying an outdoor activity. Or have someone snap a photo of you.
3. Send in your photo, following the instructions posted on the "Let's Go Outside" Web site: <http://yououtdoors.org/>
4. To learn about outdoors opportunities and activities you can participate in, including the basics of digital nature photography, go to <http://www.fws.gov/letsgooutside/> and http://www.fws.gov/refuges/SpecialEvents/FWS_SpecialEvents_Search.cfm

All digital photos uploaded to the photo mosaic will help compose an outdoor image to be revealed at summer's end. When viewed from a distance, the photo mosaic appears to be a single image. But closer examination reveals that it's made up of thousands of smaller photos. Visitors to the Let's Go Outside Web site will be able to watch the photo mosaic being built and locate their own images by using a unique code number.

The Let's Go Outside initiative, supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its partners, encourages children, educators and parents to simply get outside and connect with nature and wildlife that live there.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

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