

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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News Release



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Create Holiday Memories in Nature

The weather may be chilly, but it's still a great time to get outside and see birds, mammals and a host of other wildlife species in your own neighborhood. This holiday season, create lifetime memories and establish new family traditions by getting outdoors with your camera and capturing photos of yourself and your family and friends exploring nature.

Visit a national wildlife refuge, a national fish hatchery – or even a stream or woods in your own neighborhood. Then share your best photos of you and your family enjoying the natural world with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its Let's Go Outside photo project, which already includes more than 4,000 images. Your photos will become part of an online image mosaic being compiled from thousands of photos.

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 outdoor 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. 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 image 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.