



# Press Release

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## America's Great Outdoors are Calling

**Alton, IL-** Last fall, President Obama established the America's Great Outdoors initiative to reconnect Americans with the outdoors. A series of youth listening sessions across the nation revealed that teens wanted to have fun outside, but didn't know where to start.

The Riverlands Rush is the St. Louis region's answer. On June 25, teens ages 14-18 can take part in an adventure race and optional overnight campout. Working with a partner, participants will go through a series of challenges such as canoeing across Ellis Bay, shooting a bow and arrow, and climbing a rock wall.

The challenges are designed to provide new experiences and build confidence in outdoor skills, while the optional campout offers the chance to unwind with a cookout, concert, stargazing, and camping under the stars at the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

The Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, located in West Alton, MO, is evidence that America's great outdoors are closer to home than many people believe. The Sanctuary, just minutes from Alton, and less than 20 miles from St. Louis, boasts 3,700 acres of prairie, marsh, woods, and water, rich with wildlife viewing and recreation opportunities.

Building upon similar missions, many agencies and organizations are working together to provide this opportunity. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Meeting of the Rivers Foundation, St. Charles County Parks & Recreation, Audubon Center at Riverlands, Missouri Department of Conservation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Great Rivers Research & Education Center, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Big Muddy Adventures, and National Park Service are pooling their resources to develop a quality outdoor experience.

The Riverlands Rush is open to everyone ages 14-18, however space is limited and registration forms must be received no later than June 10. Registration forms can be downloaded from [www.mtrf.org](http://www.mtrf.org). For more information, contact the National Great Rivers Museum at 618-462-6979.

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