

# CAMPERS

# ENCOUNTERS *with* NATURE

Make your visit to Missouri State Parks an enjoyable one.

Ensure safe encounters with nature  
with these helpful tips!

## Make sure you are properly prepared for your camping trip.

- Apply insect repellent when enjoying the outdoors.
- Wearing pants and long sleeves decreases your chances of ticks and mosquito bites.
- Wearing light-colored clothing makes ticks easier to spot and deters mosquitoes.
- Make sure to do a thorough tick check of your body and clothes daily.

## CAMPSITE

Staying on park trails and mowed areas is one of the best ways to avoid ticks, poison ivy and other unpleasant encounters with nature.

## WILDLIFE

Help Missouri keep wildlife wild and yourself safe.

- **“Leave Them Be.”** Trying to touch, pick up or kill wildlife is seen as a threat by animals and their first line of defense is to bite and/or claw to get away.
- **Feeding** wildlife, intentionally or not, decreases their fear of humans but not their wild instincts. This can make encounters with humans more dangerous for the person and the animal.
- **Store food properly.** Keep food inside secure locations, such as your vehicle. Raccoons and bears can easily open coolers.
- **Keep a clean camp.** To deter unwelcome nighttime visitors to your campsite, clean up all food debris and do not burn trash in fire rings.

