



*Agents provide conservation information to Missourians through radio programs and newspaper articles. They also meet with landowners and teach hunter education classes.*

## Agent training

Training consists of 26 weeks of intense classroom instruction, as well as physically demanding practical exercises. Included are daily fitness training and hands-on operation of all types of equipment. The trainees also are required to work in the field under the supervision of a veteran field-training agent.

Courses in legal studies teach trainees constitutional and state law. Interpersonal perspective classes provide skills to deal with the human side of forest, fish and wildlife resource law enforcement. In addition, the program covers criminal investigations, defensive tactics and firearms training. Successful trainees will complete 1,000 hours of licensed law enforcement training.

Throughout the program, trainees learn officer-safety techniques. They also receive technical instruction in resource management, along with instruction on the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct effective informational and educational programs.

## Advancement & benefits

Agents have the opportunity to advance to other positions, including protection district supervisor, regional supervisor, programs supervisor, field chief and division administrator.

Salaries are competitive with conservation officers in other states. The current wage scale is available upon request. The Department provides the following employee benefits:

- Paid vacation
- Paid sick leave
- Paid holidays
- Group life insurance
- Group health insurance
- Workers' compensation coverage
- Mail-order prescription drugs
- Long-term disability insurance
- Paid retirement programs
- Social security coverage
- Deferred compensation program
- Cafeteria plan

## How to apply

Those interested in a career as a conservation agent are encouraged to contact a local conservation agent and ask questions about the work. For current employment opportunities, visit [MissouriConservation.org](http://MissouriConservation.org) and click on Employment Opportunities.

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, (573) 751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

# Conservation Agent Career



**Missouri Department  
of Conservation**



*Agents are expected to work many nights, most weekends and holidays, and often under adverse weather conditions.*

## What are conservation agents?

Conservation agents are licensed peace officers of the State of Missouri who are charged with enforcing the rules of the Wildlife Code of Missouri and other state and federal laws according to the Constitution of Missouri and various statutes.

Risks are involved because violators are almost always armed, especially during hunting season.

The benefits, however, far outweigh the challenges. Agents can often set their work schedule, and they have many opportunities to meet interesting people, as well as perform an educational role. In addition, much of their work takes place outdoors, often working alone and sometimes as part of a team.

### *Types of duties*

The duties of a conservation agent vary with the season. During warmer months an agent may check fishing permits and creel limits, try to catch a violator operating an illegal net or fish trap, or arrest a person who is using an electrical device to take fish illegally.

Duties related to hunting generally are performed during colder months. The workload and responsibilities are determined by the needs of the agent's assigned county.

Patrol and stakeouts are a normal part of the job, as is a certain amount of administrative work. Agents also have many duties in the areas of wildlife, fisheries and forestry management.

### *How to be a success*

Conservation agents respond to the public through an intense public relations and educational program that unites and ties agents' responsibilities together. Success is measured by performance of the following duties:

- holding adult and youth meetings
- conducting hunter safety and ethics instruction
- appearing on radio and television
- providing information at fairs and exhibits
- writing newspaper articles
- providing programs at meetings with schools, community clubs and organizations
- and contacting resource users and landowners one on one.

### *Variety of responsibilities*

Agents must have a high level of interest in people and in conservation. In addition, agents take part in other Department duties, such as public land acquisition, selecting permit distributing vendors, maintaining equipment, attending in-service training programs, providing emergency aid and helping in rescues.



*Applicants must qualify with firearms, be able to learn to swim and be strong enough to lift a small boat and remove deer from highways.*

### *Qualifications*

To be accepted for training, the applicant must be 21 years old at the closing date for the job application, and:

- have a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry, fisheries management, wildlife management, wildlife conservation, natural resources conservation law enforcement, criminal justice, agriculture, education with science or biology emphasis, other related biological sciences, or closely related natural resource subjects
- have a valid vehicle operator's license
- have a valid Missouri operator's license by date of employment
- pass the Department's physical fitness assessment.

### *Conditions of employment*

To become an agent, the applicant must:

- accept assignment anywhere in the state
- successfully complete the training course
- be willing to be transferred when requested
- successfully complete a probationary period that runs concurrently with the training period.