

GREENEST

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Challenge

Start by reading the Huffington Post's [6 Reasons to Step Outside Your Comfort Zone](#), to get inspired for this challenge.

- Let the adventure begin! One twist, it's a scavenger hunt to prompt you to notice your surroundings; living things, places, and moments you might not expect. Take a series of photos to address the tasks below and share them with us.

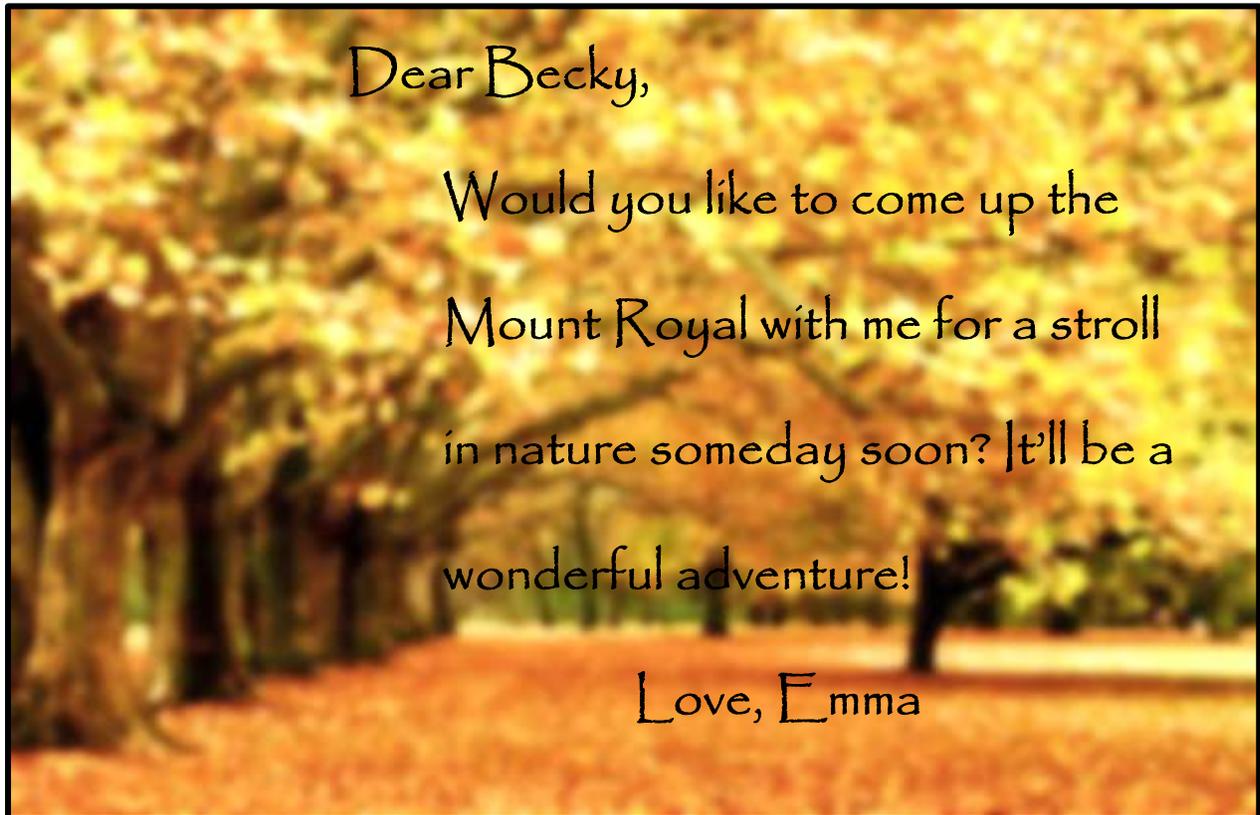


- PGC ADVENTURE SCAVENGER HUNT

- **Take a picture of your surroundings and caption it with your observations (What are you seeing? How does it make you feel? And of course, the name of the destination: city, state, etc.). Here are some suggestions of things to keep an eye out for. Take this list and tell us what you saw:**
 - **The Mont-Royal: Montreal, Quebec, Canada**
 - Since I was little, the Mont-Royal has always been a place of wonder and awe for me. One of the higher peaks in the region and visible from more than 80 kilometres up in the Laurentian Mountains, this mountain is majestic and frankly awe-inspiring. I always feel humbled by the Mount Royal's beauty and vastness.
 - **A pollinator and what it's pollinating**
 - Unfortunately the weather has already turned to cool-weathered autumn, so pollinators are becoming rarer to spot. I kept my eyes open for pollinators, but didn't see any insect or animal pollinators that I could spot!
 - **2 plant species**
 - I saw many maple trees, with their leaves already turned all sorts of brassy tones of reds, yellows, browns, and oranges... Some of their leaves already littered the trail, but most of them still hung precariously on the tips of the maples' branches.
 - There were also pine and fir trees native to the region all up the mountain.
 - **1 bird species**
 - I saw a gorgeous red male cardinal while on my way back down the mountain – I had brought my binoculars, so I had a perfect view of him as he swooped through the air above me.
 - **1 flower species**
 - Although it's not exclusively a flower (it's more of a tree), I saw the flowered buds of some Sumac trees along the path up the mountain today. The colour of the buds was just finishing its transition from bright red-orange to a dull brown-maroon for the wintertime.
 - **Wildlife**

- At one point, I had to burst out laughing because I saw the possibly the fattest squirrel I've ever seen in my life! The chubby rodent lumbered his way between the trees, looking for food to hoard away. I stopped for about 10 minutes and watched him stock up on food for his upcoming winter hibernation.
- **The terrain (is it dusty? Dry or grassy? Muddy, well-trodden?)**
 - It rained for all of last week, so the dried mud along the path I took up the mountain today still had past walkers' footprints – the remnants of last week's downpours.
- **The sky (is it Cloudy? Clear? Sunny?)**
 - Today was a clear and sunny day. Slightly chilly, but still gorgeous outside!
- **What is something that took your breath away?**
 - The view from the outlook at the top of the mountain was incredible. Even beyond the majestic skyline of Montreal. Because it was such a clear and bright day, I could see the mountain range down to the south, way across the Canada-US border in Vermont. Being able to look out over a beautiful city like Montreal, see the western part of the Saint Lawrence River [which ultimately extends *all* the way East to the Atlantic Coast], and then see the faintest blue and purple tinges of mountains 200 kilometres south... The wind in my ears and the sun in my eyes, and the taste of autumn on the tongue... feeling empowered and looking down at the city and the world below and beyond me.... It was just absolutely breathtaking.
- **What is something that surprised you?**
 - I was very surprised (and saddened) to remark that there were very few people who had taken advantage of such a beautifully sunny weekend day to ascend the core landmark of Montreal – the Mount Royal. I would assume that they were deterred by the chilly weather, but, in having that mindset, they miss out on the beauty of Quebecois autumn. Such is the symptom of nature deficit disorder (NDD).

- Share an invitation with a friend to visit this special place. Select a picture from your adventure and caption it with the invitation, share why you think this place is so special and why you want your friend to experience it as well.



Becky, please come with me up the Mont-Royal when you come to Montreal for a visit! The majesty and beauty of this mountain is completely unlike anything you've ever felt. The mountain has a soul of its own. It keeps the city alive with the power from within. When you see the fire atop the leaves on the trees during this Autumn, you'll finally understand why I love coming back to see the nature on this mountain so much. -Emma

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