

## Geocaching Challenge



### History of Geocaching:

This phenomenon began May 3, 2000 with a computer consultant hiding a bucket and putting the GPS coordinates on the internet. This was found by 2 others and geocaching was born. This was initially called the “Great American GPS Stash Hunt” and the rules were very simple, “take some stuff, leave some stuff”.

The term *geocache* came about, with *geo* referring to earth, and *cache* referring to a storage place for treasure or to the technological term that refers to computer storage that is used to retrieve information that is used frequently. All of this combines to describe the adventure that is geocaching. (from <http://www.geocaching.com/>)

### Different forms of Geocaching:

#### **Cache In, Trash Out Events**

Collect litter along the trails and then, after finding the cache, properly dispose of the litter.

#### **Locationless (Reverse) Cache**

You are given a task to find a specific location and log it’s coordinates. This is done like a scavenger hunt. This is also known as way marking.

#### **Traditional Cache**

Find a container with a log book and some form of cache. The coordinates are provided on the webpage. When you find this, you take something from the container and leave something, as well as write in the logbook.

#### **Multi-Cache**

This involves two or more locations, with each location giving the next location until you find the cache.

If you want, you can log your experience at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

There are GPS units available from the Provincial Office ([www.albertagirlguides.ca](http://www.albertagirlguides.ca)) and some Areas have these as well. Please contact your local Area Program Adviser if you need help borrowing these for your unit.

Image from semo.net

## Sparks and Embers

Do 2 of the following:

1. Design your own “cache” that describes your group. This can include pictures that the girls design, items that describe their favourite things to do at the meeting, or any other things that represent them. Then, using a map of your community, follow the map to find your own geocache that has been hidden in the community.
2. Learn how to use a map to find coordinates by playing a game like twister
  - o Have the girls put different body parts on different coordinates of the map (such as right pointer finger A5)
3. Try a simple traditional cache. Give the girls the GPS unit with the coordinates set in this. As a group, have the girls walk towards the cache by going towards the direction that the numbers get closer. The geocache can be a cache that is made by the unit or can be a cache that is in the area. For local caches, go to [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).
4. Try the trash and cache. While either finding a location on a map of the area or using a GPS unit to find a cache as a group, pick up trash along the way. This helps the girls to have a wider understanding of being green in the outdoors. Also, make sure to pick up anything that can be recycled as well.
5. Using a map of the world, find the coordinates for the four world centers.
6. Play a geocaching guessing game. One girl or object is hidden as the cache, the person who knows where the cache is can then “beep” louder and faster as the girls approach this and slower and softer as they get farther away from this.

## Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers

Do 3 of the following:

1. Create a cache that symbolizes your group. This cache can then be hidden in your area, the coordinates logged, and then the group can find this cache.
2. Try a simple cache in your area. A box of “cache” can be hidden near your meeting area and the coordinates put in the GPS. Working in pairs or groups, try to find this.
3. Create a multi-cache and set this up for others in your group. This can be done by logging coordinates in the GPS and then following the different coordinates from place to place until the final cache is found. This is a good way for the girls to get to know their local area.
4. Try a reverse cache by finding a location in your area, either using a map or from clues that are hidden, and then getting the GPS coordinates for this area.
5. Using [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com), find a cache in your local area and find the cache. Leave something Guiding in the cache box and make sure you write in the logbook.
6. Find a Girl Guide geocaching cache in your area. Use [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) to find the one closest to you. Make sure you log this into the log book and let your local Area Program Adviser know that you have found this. If you take something from this, put in something Guiding to it.

## Program Tie-Ins – All Branches

Into the Outdoors  
Nature Discoveries  
Our Shared Planet

Be Well  
My Physical Self

Experiment and Create  
Science Lab

Explore Identities  
Being You

Connect and Question  
Local Communities