



# OUTDOOR **RECREATION** AWARD



## PROJECT: **GEOCACHING**

### GOALS

- A. GEOCACHING FACTS:** Define **geocaching** and four **geocaching** terms.
  - B. GEOCACHING CHALLENGE:** Find a local geocache in your area.
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### **A. GEOCACHING FACTS**

- Geocaching**—a worldwide scavenger hunt or treasure hunt that has been going on since 2000. There are over 2 million caches located on all seven continents. These caches are officially registered and you can find the coordinates at [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com).
- GPS**—Global Positioning System. It can be a device or an app (see below).
- Waypoints**—latitude and longitude points that you setup in the memory of your GPS for a particular journey or scavenger hunt.
- Cache**—Short for “geocache.” A permanent waypoint in the treasure hunt. (Cache is originally a French word that means “stash” or “hiding place.”)
- Letterboxing**—Another form of treasure hunting that includes clues instead of coordinates. Search “Letterboxing North America” online for more info.

### **GPS or Phone App**

You can either send the coordinates to your handheld GPS or download the free geocaching app on your smartphone at [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com).

### **Inside the Cache**

Inside the cache you’ll find treasures, trinkets, and small objects left by geochachers who have been there before you. The rules of geocaching say: if you take something out of a cache, you must leave something—not lint or a stick, but a small object. People have left objects such as a toys, pencils, or gift cards.



## **B. GEOCACHE CHALLENGE**

Locate a waypoint in your area and follow the coordinates to find the cache. Don't forget to bring something to leave behind!

**Step 1**—Visit *geocaching.com* and seek a cache close to you! Odds are there are several in your town. Pick one with an “easy” difficulty rating.

**Step 2**—Become familiar with how to use your GPS or the geocaching app on a smartphone. Download the free introductory version of the geocaching app at *geocaching.com* or use a handheld GPS used for hiking and navigating.

**Step 3**—Load the coordinates into your GPS (check your device’s manual). If you have a device with a cord that connects to a computer, use the “Send to GPS” function or input the coordinates by hand.

**Step 4**—Research the type of cache you are looking for. *Geocaching.com* will give you a clue as to what type of container to look for (micro, small, regular, or large). It could be anything from a plastic box to a bird shaped container—and it will have “Official Geocache” written on the container.

**Step 5**—Hold your GPS flat and point the top of the unit away from you. You may be walking on a marked trail, or walking through brush and trees. Start looking for your cache once your device shows you are 30 feet away.

**Step 6**—Find the logbook inside the cache. Sign it, and remember if you take an item from the cache others have left, leave something of equal or greater value in return in a plastic zip lock bag (no foods).

**Step 7**—Place the geocache back where you found it. When you get back home you can “Log Your Find” on *geocaching.com*.

### **RESEARCH MORE**

- Take an intro GPS or Geocaching class at your local sporting goods store.
- Check your recreation listings for your park district for any beginning geocaching courses.
- Visit *Geocaching.com* and look for Videos > Geocaching Basics. Watch several videos to get yourself oriented to the process. The website is user friendly and will walk you through beginning geocaching.

*My child has successfully completed the Project Goals for the topic—Geocaching.*

Adult Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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