Geocaching: Let's Go for a Walk, Mobility, Maps, Treasures and Adventures!

The word "Geocaching" represents geo for geography, and caching for the process of hiding a cache.

Developed in 2000 when the US Military release satellite coverage for civilian use.

To 'Cache' one needs Satellite coverage and a GPS and access to the Internet.

Website address: www.geocaching.com,
    Must log in, so one must register but may join for free.
    Yearly cost for 'Premium" membership is $25.00.
    Other option: www.opencaching.com

To Begin:
  ✦ Go to Geocaching website- Log in
  ✦ Search for caches in your area, check difficulty & recent logs & if there is a hint. Checked when last found.
  ✦ Log waypoints to GPS
  ✦ Remember to take map, compass, hints, water, extra batteries, whistle, items to trade, etc. Let someone know where you are going.
  ✦ Best to mark where you begin/park as a waypoint, in case you get lost….
    Best time to go is in the late fall or early spring!

Types of Geocaches

- ✦ Traditional
- ✦ Multi
- ✦ Puzzle
- ✦ Earth
- ✦ Event

What is in a cache?

- ✦ A cache have almost anything that can fit into the container but all need a log book. Usually there are small toys, pens, foreign coins, etc. traded. "Swag"
- ✦ No food, weapons, drugs, or unsafe items
- ✦ Use Commonsense!
    - ✦ Some caches may have a "theme" such as sports & want only sport items traded in the cache.

Geocaching Rules are very simple…

- ✦ 1. Sign the log.
- ✦ 2. Take something from the cache.
- ✦ 3. Leave something in the cache.
- ✦ 4. Write up visit on the website.

Educational Applications

- ✦ Geography
- ✦ Earth Science
- ✦ Mapping
- ✦ Math
- ✦ Computer Skills
- ✦ Writing Skills (Logs)
- ✦ Team Work
- ✦ Problem Solving

O&M & Geocaching

- ✦ Fun & motivating
- ✦ Uses today's technology
- ✦ Expands horizons beyond immediate community
- ✦ Incorporates O&M skills (visual and conceptual)
- ✦ Visual and tactile scanning
- ✦ Preplanning routes
- ✦ Problem-solving
- ✦ Compass skills
- ✦ Map reading Device use & practice

Adaptations

- ✦ Standard GPS with separate magnification
- ✦ Braille hints and directions
- ✦ Preview Cache & Create tactile/Audio markers (temporarily)
- ✦ Add additional Clues or add Contrast to Cache or Clues
- ✦ Braille hints and/or directions
- ✦ Create tactile map

Limiting Factors

- ✦ Access to website
- ✦ Visual access to device
- ✦ Visual and nonvisual access to Cache
- ✦ GPS accuracy varies a lot & will only get you so close.
- ✦ A lot of caches are in wooded locations & need to be located visually.
- ✦ May need to 'bushwhack' off trails.

Other ways of participating

- ✦ Follow Geo-coins/travel bugs
  - ✦ Instead of finding caches, your 'bug' or coin will visit different caches, being carried along by others.
    - ✦ Some have "Missions": travel to state capitals, or to different countries or to sporting places, etc.
    - ✦ Once bug is moved to a cache, it is logged by it's specialized number on the website so one can follow the journey.
- ✦ Set up own Cache
  - ✦ There are rules to follow, check out geocaching.com website.

Outdoor Safety

- ✦ Tick check
- ✦ Remember Bug Spray & Sunblock!
- ✦ Head protection-baseball cap & safety glasses

Other Resources

Low Tech Option: Letterboxing
- ✦ www.letterboxing.org
- ✦ http://www.atlasquest.com
- ✦ http://letterboxing.info

www.waymarking.com provides tools to catalog mark and vision interesting and useful locations around the world

Mobility is learning to TAP

      *TOLERATE an environment (sounds, smells, etc.)

      *ANTICIPATE what is next (activity, location, movement)

      *PARTICIPATE in the world (by moving, indicating a choice in direction or activity

For Individuals who are pushed in strollers and wheelchairs, we need to start them to TAP — teaching them to tolerate new environments, such as sounds, smells, places, textures, travel surfaces, etc.

Geocaching can help raise TOLERANCE of movement and use tactile and verbal cues consistently for

      Right turns & left turns

      Bumps (thresholds, uneven surfaces)

      Down slopes, up slopes (hills, ramps)

      Speed changes (in traffic situations)

Which leads to **anticipation** of changes:

    Active involvement in search (preparation & execution)
    Active involvement in finding additional targets (cache or landmark)
    Responding to movement clues
    Tolerating new environments
Which leads to **participation** in the activity.

TAP Developed by Michelle Antinarelli mjant@charter.net

Geocaching can also enhance vocabulary for the student and family since it will reinforce more audio descriptions of environments (using sounds, smells, anticipating surface changes, anticipating slope changes, seasonal differences, etc.) when searching for a cache!

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Geocaching, second edition, authored by the editors and staff of Geocaching. Com

The Joy of Geocaching: How to Find Health, Happiness & Creative Energy Through a Worldwide Treasure Hunt, Paul & Dona Gillin 2010

Caching Name: Chasandmeg

Meg Robertson COMS

Director, O&M Department

Massachusetts for the Blind

Meg.Robertson@massmail.state.ma.us

The Waxies Dargle

A cache by tmsr

 Hidden : 08/09/2013

 Difficulty: One star

 Terrain: One star

Size: micro

22 Favorites

Additional Hints: *H is for Help.*

- [N 53° 20.671 W 006° 15.645](#)

Attributes

Inventory

4,020 Logged Visits

Date of Last log: (Found/DNF)

Merrion Square Cache

A cache by [Hezekiah (managed by poldekch)](#)

Hidden : 11/13/2009

Difficulty: One star

Terrain: One star

Size: micro

[40 Favorites](#)

[N 53° 20.458 W 006° 15.023](#)

Additional Hints: *No bicycles permitted between 59 & 60*

Attributes

Inventory

3,635 Logged Visits

Date of Last log: (Found/DNF)