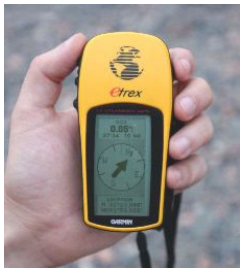
Step Outdoors



Geo-Caching

OBJECTIVE

For participants to gain further orienteering skills and to become familiar with the use of a GPS.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

GPS unit (Global Positioning system), compass, topographical map of area to be searched, waterproof container, pencil, logbook and low cost prizes, computer with internet capability.

DISCUSSION

Geo-caching started in 2000, when on May 2nd satellites around the globe processed new orders that instantly improved the accuracy of GPS technology. On May 3rd one GPS user wanted to test to see how accurate his GPS could be went out and hid a container in the woods containing a log book and prizes and posted the GPS coordinates on the internet. Other GPS users took this information and went about looking for his container, thus geo-caching was born.

ACTIVITY

Participants go on a "treasure hunt" to look for caches that other people have hidden all over the world by using the GPS coordinates that are published on the **web site** http://www.geocaching.com Geo-caches can be found all over the country in both urban and country areas.

Visit http://www.geocaching.com/ for the geo-caches that are located in the area in which you would like to conduct the hunt. This site will also help explain exactly what geo-caching is and how to go about doing it safely.

Time: 1.5 hours
Intro: 20 min
Activity: 60 min
Discussion and
Review: 10 min

Safety
Poison Ivy
Getting Lost

NOTES

Manitoba Wildlife Federation

For your first geo-cache hunt, it is suggested that you search for one that is fairly easy to find just off a marked trail. After acquiring the coordinates of a geo-cache in your area from the website, organize your group to begin your search. Some geo-caches might take a few hours to find and some might be just a few minutes.

A discovered Geo-cache.

EXTENSION

After the participants have become familiar with using a GPS and compass, you can search for geo-caches that are a little more difficult to find. Preparing your own cache and posting it on the geo-cache website is a fun activity all of the group can participate with.

REFERENCES

Geo-cache website: **www.geocaching.com**