

# *Scouts and Geocaching*

Richard E. Billion

Scout Master

Troop 298

Apple Valley, MN 55124

# Overview

- Geocaching – What is it?
- Programming Ideas
- Let's do some geocaching
- Questions and Answers

# Geocaching – What is it?

- High Tech Game of Hide and Seek
- Hiders --- Hide caches (container that includes a log) and mark the spot with a GPS (to get coordinates)
- Seekers– Search and find the caches using the coordinates hiders provide

# Geocaching – What is it?

- Information is exchanged at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)
- Hiders and Seekers (aka Geocachers) register at the website
- Hiders --- Make entries with GPS coordinates
- Seekers– Download the information (including GPS coordinates) and use it to go find the caches

# Geocaching – Do kids really like it?

- Yes and here is why...
- Messing with computers and you basically get a handheld computer to work with in the field
- Really a modern day treasure hunt (caches can be filled with trinkets to exchange)

# Programming Ideas

- **Hiking—sprinkle in a few geocaches along the way**
  - Amazingly, most parks have loads of geocaches
    - Lebanon Hills even loans out GPS units for people to use in their parks
    - State Parks have similar programs
    - Federal Parks ban geocaches
  - Bike Trails – many have geocaches about every 600 feet
    - Bike Trails in the Twin Cities
    - Our Bike Trip to Sakatah State Park

# Programming Ideas

- **Camping Idea**

- Hide Marshmallows in one cache and Graham Crackers in another...can't have smores until both are found
  - This would not be allowed by geocaching.com
  - Nothing stopping you from doing it
- Nice Diversion on a long trip to camp
  - There are geocaches all along a route you are taking to anywhere
  - You can load in all geocaches along a route

# Programming Ideas

- **Troop Placing a Geocache**

- One troop hid a cache in Burnsville Park
  - Basically a regifting place
  - Place at rest home and tell the residents about it—kind of a service project

## **Troop Releasing a Travel Bug**

- Bugs are trinkets with a “dog tag” that travel from geocache to geocache

## **Geocaching Merit Badge**



# Geocaching – Equipment

- Sign up on [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)
- Hiders and Seekers (aka Geocachers) need a GPS....remember many phones now have built in GPS receivers
- Smart phones sometimes aren't so smart outside a coverage area...need hookup to www to work as GPS!

# Geocaching – Lets do it?

- [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)
  - GC24HP4 “Money Isn’t Everything”
    - N 44° 43.871 W 093 ° 15.840
- Who is Welcome Here?
  - N 44° 43.003 W 093 ° 16.019
- Wait a Minute Mr. \_\_\_\_\_!
  - N 44° 43.965 W 093 ° 16.049



# Questions?

# For Further Information

Richard E. Billion  
7401 Metro Blvd  
Suite 425  
Edina, MN 55441  
952 697 2630  
richard.billion@gmail.com