South Carolina Geographic Alliance
CarolinaCaching: Global Positioning Systems

A Step-by-Step Guide for Starting a Geocaching Club

Scheduling
What days will you meet?
Will you have a set schedule (Ex: every Tuesday afternoon) or will it be a variety of days?

Students
How many students will you include, and how will you select the ones involved?
Will you have more than 1 team?
- *Suggestion:* 1 team per 10-15 students

Equipment
How will you get your equipment?
Does you have money in your school budget, or will you need to apply for grants?
- *Suggestion:* 1 GPS device per 2-3 students

Support Staff
Do you have any other teachers who will help?
Are they familiar with using GPS devices and geocaching?
- *Suggestion*: Hold training sessions for support staff prior to student participation.

Field Trips
Will you take off-campus field trips?
Where will the field trips be?
- *Suggestion:* Check www.geocaching.com for local geocaches.

How will you transport the students? Does your district have transportation available? Do you have a required format for permission slips?

Geocaching.com
Will you set up a profile for your students?
Will you let them help you come up with a team name and the profile information?
Are you allowed to post photographs of your students on the internet?
Will you just search for already hidden geocaches, or will you hide some of your own?
- Make sure you follow procedures on www.geocaching.com for hiding geocaches.

Communication
How will you notify the students and parents about the club?
- *Suggestion:* Hold an information meeting for parents to explain geocaching and the club's objectives.

Suggestions for Meeting Agendas
1. Learn about the history of navigation
2. Introduce kinds of maps
3. Introduce concept of latitude/longitude
4. Introduce GPS technology (with Google Earth!)
5. Train students in the use of GPS devices
6. Design travelbugs/track travelbugs
7. On-campus practice
8. Off-campus field trips
9. Hide geocaches during off campus field trips

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