

GEOCACHING

1. DESCRIPTION: Contestants will use a handheld GPS device to follow a series of waypoints to virtual caches and answer a series of questions.

A Team of up to: 2

Approximate Time: 50 minutes

2. EVENT PARAMETERS: Contestants must supply a handheld GPS Unit, a non-programmable calculator, pen or pencil, and a clipboard. The event is held outside regardless of the weather, so appropriate dress for physical activity under the prevailing conditions is required.

3. THE COMPETITION:

1. Contestants will be given a sequence of waypoints to follow to the finishing location.
2. At each waypoint contestants will obtain proof that they visited that location by answering questions related to the waypoint.
3. Each waypoint will also feature questions about a topic within cartography. Maps may be provided. The 2015-2016 topic is: **Global Climate Change**.
4. Contestants must be able to use the standard features of their GPS, including but not limited to how to enter and delete waypoints. Contestants will be required to remove all waypoints and tracks from their GPS before and after the competition.

4. SCORING: Each correct waypoint successfully obtained in the proper sequence will be awarded an assigned value. Each correct response to the waypoint questions will also be awarded an assigned value. Highest score wins, with tiebreakers determined by the event supervisor.

5. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT: An entry-level handheld GPS unit (see latest offerings from the Garmin or Magellan companies) is sufficient for this event. Cell phones equipped with GPS units will not be allowed.

6. RESOURCES:

- www.geocaching.com
- Introductory earth science textbooks such as *Earth Science* (E.J. Tarbuck, F.K. Lutgens, D. Tasa) and *Earth Science* (Glencoe).