

# A STEM in the Park

## Take Home Activity

# STEM

in the **PARK**™

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

## Geocaching for Kids

### *What is Geocaching?*

Geocaching (pronounced GEE-o-cash-ing) offers you a family-friendly way to teach your children about the wonders of the outdoors. It's a high-tech treasure hunt that can help engage your kids in the natural world.



### *How do I start Geocaching?*

Find one near your home. There are six caches here at Wintergarden/St. John's Nature Preserve. **Geocaching.com** has many listed by zip code.

### *What do I bring Geocaching?*

Treat a geocaching-hunt as you would any hike by dressing your kids comfortably for the outdoors and carrying essential supplies such as water and snacks.

To find a cache, you will need a handheld GPS receiver.

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## ***How do I look for a cache?***

Use your GPS system to locate the cache. You may find the compass view, which gives the bearing and distance to the cache, to be the most informative screen. It will point you in the right direction while you are moving but may not be accurate while stopped. Keep an eye on where it is pointing while you are hiking, and you may be able to guess where the cache is hidden from a distance.

## ***What do you do when you find the cache?***

You found it! Congratulations! Now what?

1. Take something from the cache.
2. Leave something in the cache.
3. Write about it in the logbook.

## ***The Bottom Line***

Geocaching can be fun for the whole family. Use geocache hunts to introduce your kids to new parks, new activities and/or the natural history of your area. It also can make a fun addition to your next vacation. Look up cache locations along highways and near hotels to make travel time more interesting.

***This activity is brought to you by Montessori School of Bowling Green***

