

GEOCACHING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

AUDIENCE

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This is a two-part program that includes an introductory session and an activity in which patrons look for geocaches in and around the library, or out in the community. Patrons can find caches, add to existing caches, or create new caches to be found by others. Use Geocaching.com to log your geocache locations (or look for any other geocaches that might already be in your area). Give each geocache location a nautical name and connect it with a fun fact about oceans or ocean animals. You can also make this into a contest where patrons who find all the geocache locations are entered for a big prize. A great multigenerational program, but younger children will need assistance to play. Suggested runtime: 60–90 min per session.



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Containers
- Items to be geocached
- Log book
- Printed instructions
- A Geocache.com account
- GPS device or geocaching app (for each participant)

WHAT IS GEOCACHING?

Geocaching is a popular pastime for those who enjoy treasure hunts and the great outdoors. Using GPS coordinates, caches are hidden, found, added to, and found again. Be sure to check for local geocaching organizations, who might be willing to lead the introductory session.

TIP:

For a passive program, have patrons share their findings on the library's Facebook page!

TIP:

Be sure to record audio of the geocache clues and directions for those who cannot read or have low vision.

TIP:

A letterboxing activity would be similar, with participants crafting ocean-themed clues and rubber stamps. <https://www.letterboxing.org/>

GAME/ACTIVITY | PASSIVE

To prepare:

- Purchase or create the items to be geocached, and create a set of instructions.
- Choose locations around town that are points of interest, such as viewpoints or historic landmarks.
- Log your caches on the website. Be sure to follow the guidelines on how to hide them and how far apart they must be.
- Create a document listing the names of the caches that you created so patrons will know when they've found them all and which ones are yours.
- Have multiple options for people to record the caches, such as noting in a log book or submitting pictures.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

You may need permission to place things in certain areas in your community. Consider partnering with recreation centers, churches, or local businesses.

Solo-librarian friendly.

RESOURCES

Web

Guidelines and tutorials from Geocaching.com:

<https://www.geocaching.com/>

Accessibility ratings of geocache locations: www.handicaching.com

“Navigation: Latitude and Longitude” from *Sultana Education*:

<https://bit.ly/3fpCYQY>

Books

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Geocaching, 3rd Edition (2012) by Geocaching.com

Geocaching Challenges: The Game Within the Game (2019) by Jesse Lunsford and Kristi Lunsford

How to Puzzle Cache Second Edition (2019) by Cully Long

Geocaching Handbook: The Guide for Family-Friendly, High-Tech Treasure Hunting (2017) by Layne Cameron