Geocaching Honor
Answers

1. Define Geocaching.

Geocaching is an entertaining adventure game for GPS users. Participating in a cache hunt is a good way to take advantage of the wonderful features and capability of a GPS unit. The basic idea is to have individuals and organizations set up caches all over the world and share the locations of these caches on the Internet. GPS users can then use the location coordinates to find the caches. Once found, a cache may provide the visitor with a wide variety of rewards. All the visitor is asked to do is if they get something they should try to leave something for the cache.

2. What is a GPS receiver?
A GPS unit is an electronic device that can determine your approximate location (within around 6-20 feet) on the planet. Coordinates are normally given in Longitude and Latitude. You can use the unit to navigate from your current location to another location. Some units have their own maps, built-in electronic compasses, voice navigation, depending on the complexity of the device.

You don't need to know all the technical mumbo jumbo about GPS units to play Geocaching. All you need to do is be able to enter what is called a "waypoint" where the geocache is hidden.

3. Demonstrate 2 ways of finding the location of a Geocache in your area on the Geocache website.
Have the student look on the website, www.geocaching.com. This is a family-friendly, kid-friendly website. Two methods of finding a location are:
- From the Main Page, submit zip code space in the upper right hand corner of the page,
- From Main Page, enter the state, then click on the word "map"

4. Demonstrate entering the latitude and longitude coordinates into the GPS to find a Geocache in your area.
Each GPS is a little different, have the student enter coordinates in the GPS units that are available. Ask around, there may be several people in your club or church willing to show the Pathfinders how to use their particular unit.

5. Define the following terms:
A. Traditional cache
B. Micro-cache
C. Virtual-cache
D. Multi-level Cache
E. Travel Bug

Traditional cache - This is the original cache type consisting, at a bare minimum, a container and a logbook. Normally you'll find a Tupperware container, ammo box, or bucket

filled with goodies. The coordinates listed on the traditional cache page is the exact location for the cache. The general rule of thumb is, "If you take an item, leave an item, and write in the logbook." Some caches are themed, so make sure to read the description before going on a hunt.

Micro-cache is a traditional cache in a tiny container holding usually nothing more than a small roll of paper and pencil on which to record your visit; and you may need to bring your own pencil

Virtual cache is not a physical cache, but rather a place of usually historical or local interest; that is, a commemorative plaque, sign, object, or building.

Multi-level cache is a cache with more than one location; frequently the Geocacher must find the clues to the second cache in the first cache and so on.

Travel bug is any object tagged with an identification tag that wants to travel to a specific location or accomplish specific tasks, for example, to get to a geocache at Mt. Rushmore or to attend a baseball game in every state. Look on the Geocache website Travel Bug page for more information.

Geomuggle/muggle is a non-geocacher. Usually this term is used after a non-geocacher looks puzzled at a geocacher making circles with their CPS receiver, or when a non-geocacher accidentally finds a cache. Geomuggles are mostly harmless.

6. **What items may be left in a geocache? Which items may not?**
   What is usually in a cache?
   A cache can come in many forms but the first item should always be the logbook. In its simplest form a cache can be just a logbook and nothing else. The logbook contains information from the founder of the cache and notes from the cache's visitors. The logbook can contain much valuable, rewarding, and entertaining information. A logbook might contain information about nearby attractions, coordinates to other unpublished caches, and even jokes written by visitors. If you get some information from a logbook you should give some back. At the very least you can leave the date and time you visited the cache.

   Larger caches may consist of a waterproof plastic bucket placed tastefully within the local terrain. The bucket will contain the logbook and any number of more or less valuable items. These items turn the cache into a true treasure hunt. You never know what the founder or other visitors of the cache may have left there for you to enjoy. Remember, if you take something, it's only fair for you to leave something in return. Items in a bucket cache could be: Maps, books, software, hardware, CD's, videos, pictures, money, tickets, antiques, tools, games, etc. It is recommended that items in a bucket cache be individually packaged in a clear zipped plastic bag to protect them.

What shouldn't be in a cache?
   Use your common sense in most cases. Explosives, ammo, knives, drugs, and alcohol shouldn't be placed in a cache. Respect the local laws. All ages of people hide and seek caches, so use some thought before placing an item into a cache.

   Food items are ALWAYS a BAD IDEA. Animals have better noses than humans, and in some cases caches have been chewed through and destroyed because of food items in a cache. Please do not put food in a cache.

7. **Know and practice good Travel Bug Etiquette**
   Use the Golden Rule when you find a Travel Bug. Most owners would rather see their travel bugs do a lot of traveling, so try not to hold on to a travel bug for too long. If you plan on holding onto the bug for more than 2 weeks, make sure to send a courtesy email to the owner letting them know.

8. **What is meant by Cache In, Trash Out?**
   An activity held sacred by Pathfinders everywhere, Trash Out simply means to take along a plastic trash bag while hunting Geocaches and picking up trash on the way.

9. **Find 3 Geocaches in your area, at least one of which must be a regular (traditional) cache.**
   Comply with local laws, use common sense with regards to safety, take along something to trade, and have fun.

10. **Write about your geocache find in your logbook on the geocache website.**
    From the Main Page of www.geocaching.com, go to My Cache Page, click on "Create A New Account." This is a family friendly, Kid safe web site. No personal information is available from this site. Emails are safe and password protected through this system.

11. **Discuss Matthew 6:19-21 and Jeremiah 29:13 and compare them to geocaching.**
    Matthew 6:19-21 - Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through not steal, for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

    Jeremiah 29:13 - And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

12. **Discuss safety concerns you should consider when geocaching.**
    Heights, falls, traffic, rough terrain, poisonous plants, like poison ivy or poison oak, snakes, spiders, wild animals, strangers; do not Geocache alone or at night in a remote area. Wear sturdy shoes as for hiking, make sure to take plenty of water when hiking to a remote area or for any distance. Let someone know what you are doing, where you are going, and when you expect to be back.

Resources
Geocaching.com - http://www.geocaching.com/

Zip Code Lookup - http://www.usps.com/zip4/citytown_zip.htm

Buxley's Geocaching Waypoint - http://www.brillig.com/geocaching/

The Degree Confluence Project - http://www.confluence.org/

University of Tennessee - Global Positioning System Links - http://www.lib.utk.edu/~cic/gpsintro/gpslink.htm

The International GPS Global Positioning System Waypoint Registry [TM] - http://www.waypoint.org/