



# Manitou District Cub Scout Roundtable Agenda



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Geocaching

Geocaching is a high-tech scavenger hunt that's great to do during camping or a hike (you'll probably want to accomplish other things during the hike). To have a geocaching activity, you'll need a couple of things. First and most importantly, you'll need a Global Positioning System or GPS device. A GPS, if you don't know, is an electronic device that picks up signals sent by satellites to determine your exact location to within 3 yards. Second, you'll need is a membership to [geocaching.org](http://geocaching.org). This website has record of all registered caches in North America. Finally, you'll want to bring is a small trinket that identifies you, that you'll trade for an item that's already in the cache. You should not leave perishable items in the cache.

An entry level hiking GPS costs somewhere around the \$90 price range. These GPS's are very basic and you'll probably expect to have to enter the coordinates manually. A nice one will run around \$300 - \$500 dollars but will have many more nice features. I have a Garmin Oregon 200 which I upgraded to a 400 with flash memory card and software. So far it's been very rugged and the user interface is awesome!

Information found at the [geocaching.org](http://geocaching.org) website includes: The location of the cache, information about the terrain where the cache is hidden, what type of cache it is (the micro-cache, small cache, multi-cache, virtual cache and webcam cache), a cipher clue if you get stuck, and feedback from people who either found or didn't find the cache. If you own certain brands of GPS's (Garmin), you can download this information right into you GPS instead of entering it manually.

A cache is usually put in a, durable, waterproof container. Items contained in the cache usually include: a log book where people who find the cache write their names, a pencil or pen and trinkets that other people have made a trade with the original items that were placed in the cache.

Geocaching is a fun outdoor activity that just about anyone can do. There are many caches in our area. The Minnesota State Park system has advertised geocaches on their website and in their brochures. I even notice that at the North Star Council Boy Scout camps this summer, they've added this as an approved activity (electronics at a Boy Scout camp!).