



## Geocaching in Calgary Area

Calgary Area has a geocaching coordinator - Karla Williamson. So what does this mean to you as a Guider?

Since there seems to be a lot of excitement and momentum centered around this new technology (including the new Alberta geocaching challenge <http://www.albertagirlguides.ca/challengesGeocaching2010.pdf>), we'd like to centralize the geocaching resources available to you here in Calgary Area

First, what the heck is geocaching?

*Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share your experiences online. Geocaching is enjoyed by people from all age groups, with a strong sense of community and support for the environment. See this page for more info <http://www.geocaching.com/about/default.aspx>.*

A regular membership on geocaching.com is free, and there are literally *thousands* of geocaches to find in the city and surrounding area.

Next I'd like to talk about 2 geocaching initiatives as they pertain to Alberta and Calgary.



### **(1) GPS Units**

We have access to 17 provincial GPS units - these are available to borrow for FREE to units/Guiders. A set of 8 GPS units are in Edmonton ("north set") and another set of 9 are in Calgary (the "south set"). To book these units, you can use the booking form attached to the Guider e-news OR go to <http://www.albertagirlguides.ca/forms.html>, and look under GPS units.

If you don't know how to use GPS units, I can give a short training plus there are some great instruction booklets included with the GPS's. You can also rent GPS units from places like MEC and the U of C Outdoor Centre.

### **(2) Geocaches on GGC Campsites**

There are geocaches that have *already* been placed on GGC campsites that **only** GGC Members have access to. When caches are set on GGC campsites, they CANNOT be published on geocaching.com to be found by the general public as they have been placed on PRIVATE property. You as a Guiding Member can go find them, but the general public cannot.

- ♣ If you would like to *look* for these geocaches, please contact me through the Calgary Program Committee, [program@calgarygirlguides.com](mailto:program@calgarygirlguides.com) with a subject line - attn.: geocaching coordinator for the coordinates. They are also programmed into the south set of provincial GPS units.
- ♣ If you would like to *place* a geocache on a GGC campsite please contact through the Calgary Program Committee, [program@calgarygirlguides.com](mailto:program@calgarygirlguides.com) with a subject line - attn.: geocaching coordinator and we can go over the policy put in place by Calgary Area.

Thank you.  
Guider Karla