

GPS Trail



Life Skill

- Decision Making

Materials for each team of 2-3

- marked waypoints
- A "unique" item for the last waypoint (one for each team)
- GPS receivers
- A large outdoor area where the waypoints can be located

Doing the Activity

1. Separate the participants into teams of 2 - 3, depending on how many GPS units available and number of participants!
2. Give participants a starting waypoint to begin.
3. Once they have reached the waypoint they should locate a piece of paper there with the next waypoint coordinates. (For more advanced participants the coordinates could be entered in and the GO TO function could be used.)
4. Step 2 can be repeated as many times as necessary. The participants should switch between waypoints so that each team member has the opportunity to use the GPS unit during the activity.
5. If the team is successful locating the last waypoint they are to find a unique item to bring back to headquarters. (Unique meaning something that couldn't just be picked up along the way - to show that they have really completed the trail).

Note to Leaders

Depending on the level of GPS abilities among the participants this activity can be adapted in length and difficulty.

1. Increasing the number of waypoints used would certainly lengthen the trail.

2. Increase the difficulty of the activity by having participants enter each of the waypoints into their GPS receiver in order to complete the activity.
3. Each team could have a unique trail they are to complete (not just tracing steps of previous teams).
4. Each team could be required to find a certain item at each of the waypoints rather than just the last.
5. This could also be adapted to go along with another lesson - for example the waypoints could be located where there are special types of plants or habitats. (They could use a digital camera to take pictures of the waypoint instead of picking the plant, etc...)

Reflect

- What is the problem that you were given to solve?
- What are some decisions your team had to make in order to locate a waypoint?
- What information is needed to make a decision?
- What is your opinion of this activity?

Apply

- What are some recreational uses of a GPS unit?
- How could GPS units be used in emergency situations?
- How could GPS be used in your daily life?
- How are golf courses using GPS technology?



For information on the web on these topics use the GPS Resource page provided with these activities!