

Garmin *etrex* GPS

Quick Start Guide to Geocaching



*Written by: Peter Olesheski, Naturalist
Up Yonda Farm
Environmental Education Center*

etrex Geocaching For Beginners

Step 1: Once outside, turn unit on, using power button (2nd button on right side) and wait for unit to acquire a signal.

Step 2: Once you see "Ready to Navigate", press the page button (top button on right side) 4 times and you will see a screen with "MENU" at the top.

Step 3: On this page, there is a list of options. The first is "MARK", which is highlighted in black. Press the enter button (3rd button on left side) once. This will take you to another screen with the words "MARK WAYPOINT" at top.

Step 4: On this screen, with a kneeling man holding a flag, press the up arrow once to highlight a 3 digit number. Then press enter once to give this point a name. This point you are naming will be the geocache destination you hope to find, so name it appropriately. To change the number into a name, press enter, then use the up or down arrows to select the right character. Once on the desired character, press enter again. Repeat this process until you are satisfied with the name for this point, then press the down arrow until the word "OK" is highlighted in black at the bottom of the page. Press enter.

Step 5: Next, press the down arrow once to highlight the word "OK" and press enter. Now you must find the point that was just saved and change its value to represent the geocache location you wish to find. On the "MENU" page, press the down arrow once to highlight "WAYPOINTS" and press enter. Using the down arrow, select the group that contains the point you created and press enter. This highlights the first recorded point in the group. To select your point, press the up or down arrows until it is highlighted and press enter again.

Step 6: You should now see a page that says "REVIEW WAYPOINT" at the top. Press the down arrow 4 times to highlight the N and W coordinates at the bottom of the page (series of numbers). Press enter to edit these coordinates. Use the arrow keys and enter button to change the coordinates, just as you changed the name of the waypoint in Step 4. The location coordinates must match the coordinates of the geocache you wish to find. When they have been altered, press the down arrow until "OK" is highlighted and press enter.

Step 7: This brings you back to the "REVIEW WAYPOINT" screen, where you must press the up arrow button 4 times to highlight "GO TO." Press enter and you will see a new page with a compass in the middle. Begin walking and as you move, the compass moves. Follow this compass to the geocache destination. If the up or down arrows are pressed, different information about your trip will be shown on the bottom of the page, such as your elevation and speed at which you are traveling. Just remember when you get close to your destination, that the accuracy of your GPS is based on satellite signal strength, which is not controllable. If you are in an area of the forest with heavy canopy above, the signal may be weak, so you may have to search a little to find the hidden cache.