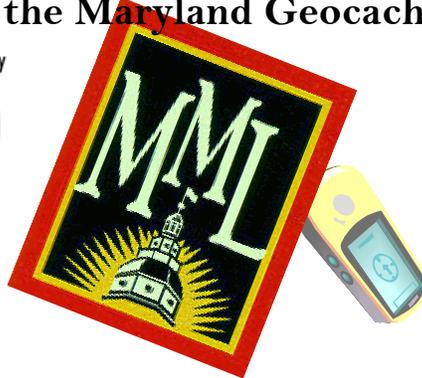# Maryland Municipal League Geo Trail
(In partnership with the Maryland Geocaching Society)

What is a Geocache?

Discovering a geocache, is very much like going on a treasure hunt using a hand-held GPS (Global Positioning System) to plot map coordinates to locate the treasure or "cache." At a bare minimum, a cache must consist of a container and a log book. A typical cache may also include trinkets and trade items. Geocache etiquette asks that each discoverer of the cache who takes a trinket, replace it with another item. Information about the city or town may also be included in the cache, discount coupons for lodging, meals, shopping, etc.

What is a Geocaching Trail?

"A geocaching trail is a series of geocaches tied together by a common theme. There is not an itinerary, as we would think of a traditional trail, but rather a small series of points on interest in a sort of self-guided goal-oriented plan. Participants can pick and choose which participating caches they wish to seek, based on their choice of location, difficulty, and terrain levels. Typically there is an incentive to finding a certain number of caches along the trail." *(Definition provided by the Allegeny Geo Trail, Pennsylvania)*

The MML Geocache trail will be comprised of participating cities and towns from throughout Maryland. A collectible, highly coveted geo coin will be given to the first 200 geocachers as an incentive for completing the entire trail. To be eligible for the coin, geocachers must download a passport from the MML website. Geocachers must then record the name of the town/site, cache code and date in the passport. Once the cachers have discovered every cache, on the trail, they may return the passport to MML for validation to receive their collectable coin. Passports will continue to be used even after the collector coins have been claimed as a way for geocachers to keep track of their Maryland Municipal League Geocache Trail discoveries.

Why a Municipal Geocaching Trail?

The purpose of the Maryland Municipal League Geo Trail is to continue promoting awareness of and visits to Maryland's cities and towns. It taps into the rapidly growing high-tech tourist trade that is not limited to any particular age group. Anyone with a hand-held GPS can participate in Geocache tourism. They just access the official geocache website www.geocache.com, go to the MML account and download or manually enter the map coordinates for each cache on the Maryland Municipal League Geo Trail; then use their GPS to find the caches.

Geocachers come from all over the world and often view a geocache trail as a visit destination. Business travelers have also been known to look for caches in their travel areas. Geocache tourism presents a unique opportunity to attract visitors from an ever growing variety of market segments without the cost of multi-targeted and often expensive tourism promotions.

Help from the Maryland Geocaching Society

Members of the Maryland Geocaching Society will work with each qualified city/town to help select the best place to hide its cache and will determine the map coordinates for the cache. They will also approve the contents to make sure they are not in violation of geocaching rules and will help to write the description of the cache for the official geocaching website.