I’d rather be Geocaching

WB History Challenge
What is the White Bear History Challenge?

- A high-tech hide-and-seek game
- A fun way to learn the local history around us
- Geocaching
- Munzee hunting
- Outdoor activity for the whole family

- A collaboration between the RCL-White Bear library and the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society
How were the sites chosen?

- Historical significance
- Photos
- Public locations
Why did we use geocache-munzee hybrids?

- Rules limit space between caches
- Munzees may be closer together
- Caches have containers.
- Caches are published to the general public, not just library users.
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Steps to starting the program

• Sites selected – cache locations scouted and waypointed

• Photos identified and text written

• Cards printed

• Caches prepared

• GPS receivers purchased and cataloged

• GPS receivers loaded with waypoints, waypoint sheets printed
Steps to starting the program

• Munzees added

• Cache pages and Munzee pages planned

• Munzees and caches activated

• Kick-off event

• Get the word out – program is ongoing
What will you find in a History Challenge cache?

Just:

• a logbook
• a pencil
• a baggie full of collector cards
• a Munzee sticker
• No trade items
Sample comments from finders

• “I'm looking forward to collecting all the cards in this series. I'm doing a Geocaching scrapbook and these cards will be a great addition. So... onward with The White Bear History Challenge!! TFTC. SL” - jwazwi (geocacher)

• “The trading cards are pretty cool. The other 5 crew members were jealous when we returned home. TFTC!” - cornelsius2 (geocacher)

• “Having grown up in the area I recognized a familiar name on the marker. This looks like a fun series and I hope to find them all I am sure I will learn something new about the area. SL TFTC” – leopold22 (geocacher)

• “This history challenge was a lot of fun to do and I was in areas of WBL that I had never been in before. Thank you for all the hard work it must have taken you to put out this challenge with the informative cards” – oakwilt (geocacher) (completed the series)

• “Found with grand sons, Nick and Nate. Nice card. It should be a fun series. TFTC.” – gileian (geocacher) (completed the series)

• “TFTM and for a great History series” – Hackettgroup (munzer) (completed the series)
Statistics so far

- Number of Munzee captures: 156
  10.4 per cache

- Number of online logs on Geocaching.com: 169
  42.25 per cache

- Number logged on Opencaching.com: 2
  .67 per cache

- Number who have completed all 15 and collected prizes: 15
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Costs

- 2 GPS receivers to checkout (including CityNavigator) $537
- Professional card design $375
- Professional card printing $168
- Cache containers $110
- Pencils, notebooks, baggies, munzees $15
- Learning history while playing a game Priceless!
What is geocaching?

- High-tech Hide-and-seek game
- GPS – Global Positioning System
- Selective Availability turned off May 2, 2000
- First cache hidden the next day

Devices you can use:

- Handheld GPS
- Car GPS that allows waypoints
- GPS-enabled smartphone or tablet
Where can you find geocaches online?

Geocaching.com is by far the most popular
Basic caching rules

- Hidden on public land or private land with permission
- Cannot be buried underground
- Sign the log
- Trade items
- Put it back
- Obey laws and park rules
- BYOP
Types of caches

- Traditional
- Multi
- Puzzle
- Event
- Virtual
- Earthcache
- CITO

Sizes of traditional caches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Micro</th>
<th>Small</th>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>Large</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Micro Cache" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Small Cache" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Regular Cache" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Large Cache" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Virtual caches

No new ones allowed – now have Waymarking
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What would I expect to find in a traditional cache?

Log book/Pencil
Swag
Coins
Travel bugs
Look up caches online

A search by address will narrow an area down for you.
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Where are the caches?

They are everywhere!
Log your find online
What is a munzee?

- Munzees are like 2-D caching
- No container
- QR codes that you “capture”
- A smartphone app
- Earn points
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Searching for Munzees online

Click on View Munzee Map
Where are Munzees?

They are everywhere!
If using a smartphone or tablet:

- Download apps from your iphone app store or Android Playstore
- geocaching.com – $9.99
- Opencaching.com and c:geo are free
- Munzee.com (free)
Some caching jargon:

- Cords – the co-ordinates that make up a location
- Waypoints – a saved location to find again
- Muggles – non-geocachers
- TFTC – Thanks for the cache – found in online logs
- Logging – signing a cache logsheet, or adding a note online that you found it
- Smilie – the symbol you see online when you’ve found it!
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Let’s go caching!