GEOCACHING – Sandwich Town History

My name is Shannon. As a member of Girl Scout Troop 826, I've been working on my Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouts. For my Gold Award project, I created geocaches at 60 locations around town, from historical sites and cemeteries to restaurants and shops. I feel this project is a great way to share my interest in geocaching and Sandwich history with others. As a family, you can go beyond what is learned through the third grade field trips and spend quality time together as a family, learning about the rich history of our town and enjoying its many recreational opportunities. Please email me at shannon.saffle@gmail.com with any questions.

How do we find your geocaches?

1 – CREATE A FREE ACCOUNT on opencaching.us (OpenCaching North America). Simply provide your email address and create a username and password and you're all good to go!

Generally, most geocaching services/websites offer basic information for free but users may have to pay for premium information or advanced searching capabilities. This is not the case with OpenCaching – all services are open to users at no cost and every geocache is listed and accessible to everyone for free.

2 – DOWNLOAD A GEOCACHING APP AND A QR CODE READING APP to your phone. A free app for Android is c:geo. GeoCaches is a free app for iPhone. Me Caching Geo is a free app for Windows phones. All three apps offer full live support for OpenCaching North America. For a QR code reading app, I used i-nigma for my project, which is a free app available for both I-Phone and Android.

3 – SEARCH FOR A GEOCACHE TO HUNT on opencaching.us by clicking "Seek a Cache" in the menu on the left. Search using my username – Sandwich-MA-History – and a list of all 60 of my geocaches will appear.

4 – ENTER GPS COORDINATES of the geocache you want to find into the Geocaching app on your smart phone (see Step 2 above) and start searching!

I have used three different types of geocaches for my project:

- **Plant Stake**, whose waterproof plaque contains a QR code that you scan with your smart phone (see Step 2 above). The QR code will bring you to a website I've created with information about the location you've found;
- **Traditional Geocache**, a container with a QR code hidden at given GPS coordinates (scan the QR code as talked about above); and a
- **Virtual Geocache**, where you discover a location rather than a container because the location is not conducive to hiding a physical geocache.

5 – LOG YOUR FIND…when you find one of my geocaches, log back onto opencaching.us, search for the geocache you just found (see Step 3 above), click on "New Log Entry" at the top of the page and log the find.

Now, choose another geocache and keep hunting!