











## MML Geocache Trail: High Tech Fun Exploring Cities & Towns

By Linda M. Burrell, Manager, Member Relations & Education

Discover municipal Maryland by blazing the Maryland Municipal League Geocache Trail!

The Maryland Municipal League, with the gracious help of our sponsor/partners, the Maryland Geocaching Society, ESRI, KCI Technologies, Inc., Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT), Stearns & Wheler, LLC, and the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, is the first state municipal league in the country to launch a statewide city/town Geocache Trail.

MML created the Geocache Trail to promote awareness of and visits to Maryland's cities and towns, with the goal of helping to stimulate economic development in Maryland's municipalities. This effort taps into the rapidly growing high-tech tourist trade that is not limited to any particular age group. 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." The geocacher must access the official geocache website www.geocaching.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 the GPS to find the caches. It is deceptively easy.

A geocache trail is a series of geocaches tied together by a common theme. The theme of the Maryland Municipal League Geocache Trail is *Celebrating Maryland's Cities and Towns*. The trail is comprised of 78 city/town caches located in the 11 MML Districts (regions) throughout the state. A collectible, highly coveted geo coin will be given to the first 500 geocachers who locate a minimum of 22 city/town caches throughout the state. To be eligible for the coin, geocachers must pick up a passport at any participating visitor center, use the stamp in each cache on their passports and write in the cache code word. After at least two municipal caches in each district are discovered, geocachers may return to one of the county visitor centers and have their passports validated to receive a collectable coin. Passports will continue to be used even after all coins have been claimed as a way for geocachers to keep track of their Maryland Municipal League Geocache Trail discoveries.

Geocaching is fun and a great way to explore all that Maryland cities and towns have to offer. For more information about the Trail, visit MML's website <a href="www.mdmunicipal.org">www.mdmunicipal.org</a> and click on the geo coin icon on the home page.

The following cities and towns are participating in the Maryland Municipal League Geocache Trail project:

*District 1 -* Cambridge ★East New Market ★Crisfield ★Princess Anne ★Delmar ★Salisbury ★Berlin ★Ocean City ★Pocomoke City ★Snow Hill

*District* 2 -Denton∗Federalsburg∗Greensboro∗Chestertown∗Millington∗Centreville∗ Easton∗Oxford∗Trappe

District 3 – Baltimore City

*District 4 -* Annapolis ★Chesapeake Beach ★North Beach ★Indian Head ★La Plata ★Leonardtown

*District 5 -* Gaithersburg ★ Kensington ★ Poolesville ★ Rockville ★ Somerset ★ Takoma Park ★ Washington Grove

*District 6 -* Brunswick★Frederick★Middletown★Myersville★Thurmont★Walkersville

*District 7 -* Cumberland ★ Frostburg ★ Luke ★ Friendsville ★ Mountain Lake Park ★ Oakland

*District 8 -* Boonsboro ★ Hagerstown ★ Hancock

*District 9 –* Berwyn Heights ★Bladensburg ★Bowie ★Brentwood ★College Park ★Cottage City ★Edmonston ★Greenbelt ★Hyattsville ★Laurel ★Morningside ★Mount Rainier

*District 10 -* Cecilton ★ Charlestown ★ Chesapeake City ★ Elkton ★ North East ★ Perryville ★ Port Deposit ★ Rising Sun ★ Aberdeen ★ Bel Air ★ Havre de Grace

*District* 11 - Hampstead ★ Mount Airy ★ New Windsor ★ Sykesville ★ Taneytown ★ Union Bridge ★ Westminster