



Interactive Geocaching Hunt and Demonstration comes to Ulster County Fair

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County 4-H Youth Development Program is excited to launch its new youth GIS/GPS program with two premier events at the Ulster County Fair. The first event is an interactive multi-step Geocache that will be hidden at the Ulster County Fairgrounds from Tuesday, July 31 through Sunday, August 5 from 10:00am to 9:00pm. The first clue to look for is a beneficial insect located at N41.43.325 W074.07.227. Additional clues and hints can be located on Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County's website at www.cce.cornell.edu/counties/ulster. All ages who own GPS units are welcome to participate in this fun and educational adventure. The second event is a hands-on demonstration of using GPS units on Friday, August 3 from 1:30pm to 3:00pm in the 4-H Youth Building. All are welcome to attend the GPS demonstration.

Geocaching is a growing sport in which users use Global Position Systems (GPS) to find hidden caches. The 4-H cache will include a log book and small prize items. According to the leading website for geocaching enthusiasts, www.geocaching.com, Participating in a cache hunt is a good way to take advantage of the wonderful features and capability of a GPS unit. The basic idea is to have individuals and organizations set up caches all over the world and share the locations of these caches on the internet. GPS users can then use the location coordinates to find the caches.

The ability to use and understand Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) technologies are skills that are in demand by employers. They are used in industries as diverse as planning, marketing, wildlife science, policy analysis, and shipping. CCEUC 4-H Youth Development Program recently received a grant to both purchase GPS and GIS equipment and to train staff to provide youth programs using these technologies. Over the next year the program will be offering youth programs in community and environmental mapping, geocaching and orienteering, and beginning geospatial science in Ulster County.

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