

**Exemplary Grant Application from 2006  
Youth Grant Application Long Form**

**Librarian's Name:** Amy Barr

**Position:** Youth Service Librarian / Assistant Director

**Library Name:** Kilgore Memorial Library

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**Project Title:** Go Go Geocaching

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**Category Question:** Selected Category of grant project:

**Category Answer:** Boys Read

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**Needs Question:** Identify youth service need on which this project is based:

**Needs Answer:** According to figures from the 2004 U.S. Census figures, there are approximately 3, 297 children 18 years old and younger in York County. The Kilgore Memorial Library has personally witnessed a distinct drop of regular library use from kids ages 11 to 18. This is particularly true for boys in our service area. In an effort to bring older children back to the library, especially boys, we want to offer dynamic and innovative programming using the geocaching phenomenon and GPS receiving unit (GPS-R) technology.

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**Background Information Question:** Background Information:

**Background Information Answer:** In the introduction to his book *Connecting Boys with Books* (2003), Michael Sullivan states "...it is imperative that librarians design programming with an eye toward serving the needs of boys. Effective programming can

foster good reading habits for boys and give boys a real life lesson in the community.” Designing a program that centers around geocaching is an effort to draw older kids and specifically boys back to the library.

Treasure hunting is fun. There is the thrill of figuring out the clues, physically looking for your item, working as part of a team, and sometimes a sense of competition. We would like to provide this experience to kids in our service area. Geocaching provides this opportunity along with the added incentive of exposure to technology and using a new gadget.

Geocaching is treasure hunting using technology. After inputting the latitude and longitude coordinates into a handheld GPS-R, you use the unit to help you find the general area of a cache. Most GPS-R units will bring you between 10-30 feet of the coordinates, how close depends on the sophistication of your GPS-R unit. Then it is up to the individual to physically find the cache. Sometimes additional clues are provided to help find the cache. Once the cache is found, inside there are usual small trinkets for the finder to take. The etiquette of geocaching is to leave something in the cache if you take something out.

The goal is to create interest in reading by first catching the kids’ interest with the geocaching activity. Also from Michael Sullivan’s *Connecting Boys with Books* (2003) “Challenge the minds of boys and they will be more inclined to exercise them. Reward boys for using their minds and they will learn to respect intellectual accomplishments.” By challenging our participants to learn the technology, follow the clues, find the cache, then come back to the library and brag about their successes we hope to engage them with reading materials and interests that they might not otherwise explore.

We want to do this program because it will appeal to older kids and bring them into the library. Using geocaching as the connecting activity, we will be able to explore several topics in a fun and exciting format. Some kids will be taken with working with the actual GPS-R units themselves. Other kids will be drawn more the treasure seeking aspect of geocaching, the thrill of the hunt and the find. We will be able to present any topics ranging from local history to technology to kids in a fun environment that we hope will spark their curiosity for the world around them.

We would form a partnership with the York County Extension office and the 4-H clubs. The University of Nebraska facilitates a 4-H geocaching unit. Currently there are no geocaching clubs in York County. 4-H administrators and parents will assist with programs. I am also interested in partnering with the 4-H clubs to reach out to kids that may not be regular library users.

The website [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) is devoted to the hobby of geocaching. According to their website search, there are approximately 500 caches in the York zip code. We would like to see kids and adults develop an interest in geocaching on their own and make the GPS-R units available for a short-term checkout to the kids in our program with their parents consent.

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**Goals Question:** Goal(s): (State at least part of the goal quantitatively and/or in terms of children's behavior.)

**Goals Answer:** 1) To increase the library's program participation statistics and circulation statistics by 10% for kids in the 11 to 18 age bracket.  
2) Increase the participant's curiosity in the world around them.  
3) To make the library a more positive experience for our target audience.

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**Program Question:** Description of program or activities:

**Program Answer:** The program will center on creating a local geocaching club. This will be an official 4-H club & membership will be available to any interested child in our county for ages 10 and up.

We will have four 2-hour scheduled summer programs; two programs in June and two programs in July. Each program will have a unique focus. There will be a 15-20 minute presentation on the program's topic. This will be followed by a specially designed hunt to explore that program's focus. The actual hunt for each week will be a team work experience. We will break into 5 groups with at least one adult per group. The adult is there for reference and supervision. The kids will be responsible for finding each hunt item and using the GPS-R unit. After everyone is done with their hunt, we will meet back at the library to discuss experiences, their thoughts on the hunt and on that program's topic. Accompanying each topic, we will have books available with similar topics so the kids can explore them further.

The first program will focus on explaining what geocaching is and how to use the GPS-R units.

The second program will focus on exploring the science of how GPS works.

The third program will focus on geography, specifically how items can move from place to place. At the [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) website there are travel bug maps. Travel bugs move from cache to cache. When someone moves a bug, they enter that bug's information into the website. The website will track the item's journey and display a map.

The fourth program will focus on local history with a hunt designed for the kids to find specific local landmarks.

Ideally, the group will decide to continue after the four original four programs are done. At that point, we will begin to shift the leadership of the club to its members. We will begin exploring how to create your own cache and letting the members design and lead their own hunts, still with adult supervision. We will even walk them through how to

register their caches with [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) for other people to find.

After the first meeting of the geocaching club, and after demonstrating their proficiency with the GPS-R, club members will be able to check out a GPS-R for a two day period. The club member will need a parent to sign a statement of responsibility and make a modest (\$10) deposit which will be returned with the unit. Hopefully the club members' enthusiasm will extend the rest of the family and they can all enjoy the activity together.

Marketing for this program will begin with our 4-H administrators talking directly to 4-H club members about the program, when it will be and how they can join. I will also include talks during my Summer Reading Program school visits to reach the target audience. All schools in the county will receive flyers on the program. There will be an article in the local newspaper on the program along with an interview on the local radio station. And we will have flyers in the library and around town.

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**Time to Completion Question:** Detailed time line for completion of the project (be very specific with dates and what you plan to accomplish by each date, etc):

**Time to Completion Answer:** January 2007: Contact the 4-H partners and work out the partnership details. To administer the 4-H geocaching unit, people from their organization will have to have training from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

February 2007: Ordering 5 eTrek Legend GPS-R units (\$161/per unit). Learning how to use the GPS-R units so we can program coordinates and instruct the participants on how to use the units.

March 2007: Creating the four summer programs. This will include both the 15 minute topic discussions and each program's hunt, finding places to hide the caches (getting permission if on private property), writing the clues to help find the caches, writing questions for participants to answer to verify they found the correct spot. Buying the cache boxes, small inexpensive cache items and travel bugs. Ordering subject related books for programs.

April 2007: Start marketing the program to the target audience through 4-H club visits and school visits for the Summer Reading Program. Start to recruit adult volunteers to help with the programs. Process the subject related books.

May 2007: Refining program details, finalize marketing to target audience. Article in the local paper and local radio interview.

June 2007: The Summer Reading programs will begin before the geocaching club meets. I will promote it to the appropriate summer reading program attendants. Our first two programs will be in June.

July 2007: The last two programs will be in July. At our last meeting, we will survey the group to decide if there is interest in continue this.

August 2007: Final evaluations for the geocaching program will be finished. The final report to the NLC will be written. Thank you notes to all the volunteers and everyone who agreed to have a cache on their property.

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**Number of Youth Question:** Targeted number of youth who will be impacted by this project:

**Number of Youth Answer:** 25-30 regular attendees with regular defined as making two or more meetings.

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**Personnel Question:** Personnel who will be involved:

**Personnel Answer:** Stan Schulz, Library Director

Amy Barr, Youth Services Librarian

Carol Gruber, Library Aide II

Janelle Spader, Library Aide I

Sonja Kalkwarf, Library Aide I

Library Volunteers

Two local 4-H administrators (who will help specifically will depend on who receives the above mentioned training)

4-H Parent Volunteers

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**Finding Question:** Plans for finding staff and time for this additional project:

**Finding Answer:** The planning for these programs will be folded into my general planning for the summer programs. I will spend most of the early months of the year determining the program presentation subjects and crafting the clue sheets and question sheets for the individual hunts. I will also prepare a “How To” sheet for using the GPS-R units for both the participants and the volunteers, along with general information about geocaching and how people can pursue it on their own.

Depending on what the York County 4-H Governing Council decides at their January meeting, I am hoping that some of the program planning duties can be shouldered by either the 4-H administrators (paid employees) or volunteer parents. Since that has not been decided at this time, I will plan on doing most of the work myself.

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**Budget Narrative Question:** Budget Narrative: Please indicate the details of the specific cost of each category on the worksheet. For example, your project may include a series of programs featuring one or more guest speakers. You might state: The project includes three programs, one each per month, featuring regional presenters. Month 1 - John Doe, one hour presentation on -The Ins, Outs, and How-tos of Runescape, honorarium \$100. Month 2 - Jim Doe, one hour presentation on Anime's Best, honorarium \$100. Month 3 - Jane Doe, one hour presentation on NASCAR Now, honorarium \$100.

**Budget Narrative Answer:** Contracted Services: Relates to the time and salaries of the 4-H administrators for this program. This includes the training that they will have from the UNL and the preparation time (hiding the caches and programming the GPS-R units), the actual program times, and picking up everything after the program is over.

Library Materials: This \$100 from the grant and \$50 from the Friends of the Kilgore Memorial Library will be used to purchase materials on the geocaching subject and other program subjects that are age appropriate for our participants' reading levels.

Personnel: This is in-kind and refers to my time and salary, along with other library staff time and salary, needed to plan and execute these programs.

Program Materials: This refers to buying the actual cache boxes and items for the boxes. The cache items are generally inexpensive toys, pencils, pens, stickers, etc. We will provide things in the boxes for the kids to find and provide something for them to put in the box. I will also be asking local businesses for donations (pencils, pens, etc) to help defray some of this cost. The Friends of Kilgore Memorial Library will donate \$100 for this expense.

Equipment: The bulk of this program costs, and the grant money, will go to the purchase of 5 Garmin eTrek Legend GPS-R units with a standard purchase price of \$161 each.

Promotion: The \$30 from the Friends of the Kilgore Memorial Library will go to printing up signs and flyers for the school visits, 4-H visits and to post signs in the library and around town.

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**Means Question:** Means of evaluation/Measures of success both outputs and outcomes. Output measures are quantitative and include statistics such as number of youth attending program, books circulated, number of programs held, etc. Outcomes are related to the question of whether or not your effort made a difference and if so, what that difference was. Outcome measures might include changes in attitude or behavior; documentation of knowledge acquired, etc.

**Means Answer:** Evaluation measures include:

number of participants in the program (output)

circulation statistics compared to the 2006 summer month circulation statistics (output)

surveying participants interest in continuing the geocaching club either year round or as a standard summer program (outcome)

surveying the program participants' perceptions of the library as a positive place to spend time. (outcome)

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**Beginning Date Question:** Approximate date to begin project:

**Beginning Date Answer:** The planning process will begin in January. The programs will begin in June.

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**Presentation Question:** If awarded a grant I would be willing, if asked, to make a presentation at a state or system youth event or via teleconference. Please indicate in the box Yes or No:

**Presentation Answer:** Yes

<b>Nebraska Library Commission Youth Grant Program PROPOSED PROJECT BUDGET SPREADSHEET</b> (figures rounded to the nearest whole dollar amount.)			
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>Requesting from Nebraska Library Commission Youth Grant*</b>	<b>LOCAL FUNDS**  At minimum, 10% cash match is required as part of the 25% local match.</b>	<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Contracted Services		In Kind	NaN
Library Materials	100	50	150
Personnel Costs		In Kind	NaN
Program Materials-Supplies	0	100	100

Training		In Kind	NaN
Equipment	950		950
Computer Equipment			0
Furniture			0
Operations and Maintenance			0
Promotion		30	30
Other			0
Total	1050	180	1230