

RULES FOR TEXAS GEOCACHING'S TEXAS CHALLENGE 2005

GENERAL

- Pre-register at www.txchallenge.texasgeocaching.com. You may pick up your credentials upon arrival.
- On-site registration will begin on Friday, March 11, 2005 at 10:00AM and continue until 9:00PM. Registration will resume on Saturday at 8:00AM and continue until 9:30AM. If you arrive late, you will not be turned away, but you may be behind the others. Site to be determined.
- A waiver must be signed and all fees paid in full in order to participate.
- Fees are as follows (and will be updated accordingly):

Registration prior to 2/25/05 - \$2.00

Registration after 2/25/05 - \$5.00

BBQ Dinner - \$7.00 Adults \$5.00 Child under 12

Tee Shirt - \$XX.00

Other - \$XX.00

Fees may be refunded anytime before 5:00PM, Friday, February 25, 2005. All fees become non-refundable after that time.

- All park rules and limits must be adhered to. Any violations will disqualify the offending cacher and no fees will be refunded.
- The Challenge will begin with the hiding of the tokens at 7:00AM, Friday, March 11, 2005 and end at 7:00PM. A shotgun start at 10:00AM, Saturday, March 12, 2005 will begin the finding phase which will end at 2:00PM.
- All team captains must be at the check-in point with all of their team's tokens by 2:00PM. No tokens will be accepted after that time.
- The winner will be the team with the greatest point value accumulated from their tokens.
- All participants are required to have fun!

SCHEDULE

- Pre-registration until 5:00PM, Friday, February 25, 2005.
- On-site registration: 10:00AM – 9:00PM, March 11 and 8:00AM – 9:30AM, March 12. Site to be determined.
- Hide tokens: 7:00AM – 7:00PM, Friday, March 11.
- Find tokens: 10:00AM – 2:00PM, Saturday, March 12.
- Camp Lil' Cacher: 10:00AM – 2:00PM, Saturday, March 12.
- BBQ Dinner: 2:30PM – 4:00PM, Saturday, March 12.
- Silent auction: 2:30PM – 4:00PM, Saturday, March 12.

- Announcement of winners and awards: 4:00PM – 5:30PM, Saturday, March 12.
- Southeast Texas Washer Toss Competition and Confab. All invited!: 6:00PM - ?, Saturday, March 12.
- Poker Run: 9:30AM – 11:00AM, Sunday, March 13.

TEAMS

- There will be three regional teams: Central Texas, Southeast Texas (2003 Champion), and North Texas (2004 Champion).
- In an attempt to have an equal number of cachers on each team, participants from other regions may be assigned accordingly.
- Each team will select a “Team Captain” two (2) weeks prior to the competition; preferably by Friday, February 25, 2005.
- Team Captains will be responsible for obtaining the tokens prior to the hide and distributing them amongst the team for the hide.
- Team Captains will be responsible for collecting the hiding coordinates from their team members.
- Team Captains will be responsible for giving these coordinates to the other team captains. This should be done as soon as possible once all tokens are hidden. Each team will be responsible for distributing the coordinates among their members.
- Team Captains will be responsible for turning in the tokens recovered by their team during the find to the official scorers. Sites to be determined.
- Team Captains will be responsible for representing their team in any matters affecting the team.

HIDING TOKENS

Cedar Hill State Park is one of the largest in Texas. It also has a unique terrain that requires that we follow certain rules.

- The guidelines for hiding caches as stated on www.geocaching.com, the rules as stated in “Local Rules”, and the rules below, will apply. All participants should familiarize themselves with the rules prior to the hide.
- In the event of a conflict, the “Local Rules” will apply.
- The tokens will be mailed to the team captains on Monday, February 28.
- Each team will hide 30 tokens; 15 for each of the other two teams. They will be equally distributed in point value.

<u>Num. of Tokens</u>	<u>Point value</u>
10	100
8	200
6	300
4	400

- No token may be hidden higher than 10 feet above the ground. No special tools should be needed to retrieve the token.
- No token may be buried. If a token is “covered”, no special tools should be needed to “un-cover” it.
- No token may be hidden under water.
- 100 point tokens should be 50% visible with a terrain difficulty of no more than 2.0
- 200 point tokens should be 25% visible with a terrain difficulty of no more than 2.0
- 300 point tokens do not have to be visible with a terrain difficulty of no more than 3.0
- 400 point tokens are not visible with a terrain difficulty of no more than 4.0
- 500 point tokens are not visible with a terrain difficulty of no more than 5.0
- No special technical equipment or knowledge shall be used or needed to hide the tokens. This means no climbing/repelling, scuba, etc.
- Items that may be used include, but are not limited to, automobiles, motorcycles, bicycles, roller skates/blades and skateboards. No motorized vehicles allowed off paved roads. Canoes or kayaks may be used for tokens worth 500 points. If used, it must be disclosed when turning in the coordinates.
- No puzzle or multi-caches.
- The tokens may not be modified in any way.
- No man-made containers may be used to hide tokens.
- Tokens must be hidden within the boundaries as set by the Rules Committee to be located within the boundaries of Cedar Hill State Park.
- When hidden, the token’s coordinates must be WAAS averaged for no less than 3 minutes.
- Token waypoints will be logged on official waypoint logs in degrees, minutes, decimal format; the same as Geocaching.com.
- The teams will have from 7:00AM until 7:00PM, Friday, March 11 to hide their tokens and record their coordinates.
- Team captains will be responsible for collecting the hiding coordinates from their team members.
- The team captains will exchange coordinates with each other. This should be done as soon as possible once all tokens are hidden, preferably by 9:00PM.
- The teams may use whatever legal means at their disposal using commonly available hardware and software to distribute the coordinates. In other words, no copyright or patent infringements. Teams must supply their own equipment.
- The teams will be responsible for distributing the coordinates among their members. No team members are allowed to search for or find tokens until the official start time of 10:00AM, Saturday, March 12. To that end, coordinates should not be distributed until 8:30AM, Saturday, March 12.
- The rules of fair play apply.

FINDING TOKENS

Cedar Hill State Park is one of the largest in Texas. It also has a unique terrain that requires that we follow certain rules.

- The guidelines for finding caches as stated on www.geocaching.com, the rules as stated in “Local Rules”, and the rules below, will apply. All participants should familiarize themselves with the rules prior to the hide.
- In the event of a conflict, the “Local Rules” will apply.
- The search will begin at 10:00AM, Saturday, March 12. No team members are allowed to search for or find tokens until this time.
- All teams will start on foot at the same location to begin the hunt. They may then proceed to their vehicles, etc. for the hunt.
- It is recommended that all GPS receivers be cleared of all waypoints, tracks, routes, etc. that are not relevant to the Challenge before the start.
- Each team is responsible for insuring that all waypoints are loaded on their members’ devices. Teams must supply their own equipment. It is recommended that all devices be ready by 9:30 in order to correct any problems that may arise.
- All tokens are within the boundaries of Cedar Hill State Park. Each team will find 30 tokens; 15 hidden by each of the other two teams. They will be equally distributed in point value.

<u>Num. of Tokens</u>	<u>Point value</u>
10	100
8	200
6	300
4	400
2	500

- No special technical equipment or knowledge shall be used or needed to find the tokens. This means no climbing/repelling, scuba, etc.
- Items that may be used include, but are not limited to, automobiles, motorcycles, bicycles, roller skates/blades and skateboards. No motorized vehicles allowed off paved roads. Canoes or kayaks may be used for tokens worth 500 points. If used, it must be disclosed before the search begins.
- Two way, hand held radios are permitted. Team captains should meet before the search to determine the channels to be used by each team.
- While searching for tokens, if another teams’ token is discovered, try not to disturb it. If so, please try to replace it as it was hidden.
- Found tokens may be returned to the teams’ official scorer at any time up to 2:00PM. After that time, no tokens will be accepted. All team captains must also be present.
- The rules of fair play apply.

SCORING

- Each team will provide for one person to be an official scorer by 10:00AM, Saturday, March 12. The scorer will not be allowed to participate in finding the tokens, however, they may hide tokens.
- The scorer will be responsible for receiving and holding the tokens of a team other than their own. They will not be allowed to count the point value until the search ends at 2:00PM.
- If a token is turned in to the wrong scorer, that token will not count towards the totals and will be voided. Team members should be sure they turn in their tokens to the correct scorer. The scorers will not be held liable.
- If a team member turns in a token other than their own, that team will have that token's value deducted from their score. Team members should be sure they turn in only their tokens. The scorers will not be held liable.
- The number of tokens collected will not be a factor in determining the totals, other than to break a scoring tie.
- Each scorer will count the token value of the tokens they are holding.
- The count will be double checked by the other scorer that is not a member of the team whose token value is being counted. No scorer will be allowed to count the token value for their own team.
- In the event of a tie, the team that finds the most tokens will be declared the winner.
- If a question arises, the scorers will meet with the team captains to resolve the question.
- At no time are the scorers allowed to talk to any one, other than themselves, about the scoring.
- Once the results are tabulated, they will be sealed until the awards ceremony at 4:00PM where one of the scorers, to be determined among them, will make the announcement.
- The rules of fair play apply.

LOCAL RULES

Cedar Hill State Park is one of the largest in Texas. It also has a unique terrain that requires that we follow certain rules.

- The guidelines for finding and hiding caches as stated on www.geocaching.com and the rules below will apply. All participants should familiarize themselves with the rules prior to the hide.
- The park is refuge to 5 native tall grass prairie remnants which are federally listed as endangered. The tall grass prairie remnants are the most important natural resource in the park. The Cedar Hill area is unique in that historically it is where two climax eco-systems converge. The tall grass prairie and its rolling black clay soil clashes with the rugged limestone escarpment. The transition zone between these climax ecosystems was full of brush, interspersed with grasses and small trees that were burned frequently by the prairie fires. The Native Tall Grass Prairie is located in the southwest part of the park near the DORBA Trail. Tokens

are not allowed to be placed or searched for on the Prairie. All participants should familiarize themselves with the official CHSP map for the Prairie's location.

- CHSP has two hiking trails, the Duck Pond Trail and the Talala Trail, and one hike/bike trail, the DORBA. The DORBA Trail is so-called for the Dallas Off Road Bicycle Association, which built and maintains the trail with the TPW. Bikers traverse the trail clockwise, while hikers traverse the trail counter-clockwise. Signs are posted at the entrance. There are actually 3 appropriately named trails - the Green at approximately 2.5 miles, the Yellow at approximately 7.5 miles, and the Red at approximately 10 miles. All of the trail(s) are available for hiking or biking during the Challenge, however, only the Green trail may be used for hiding tokens. All participants should familiarize themselves with the official CHSP map for the location of the trails.

AWARDS

- The announcement of winners and awards will be 4:00PM – 5:30PM, Saturday, March 12.
- Drawings for prizes will take place after the presentation ceremony. Participants are encouraged to collect and donate items for the drawings.

CAMP LIL' CACHER

- Camp Lil' Cacher for those aged 12 and under and their parents will be 10:00AM – 2:00PM, Saturday, March 12. Site to be determined.
- A tour and presentation on the significance of Penn Farm, an agricultural history center located within the park, will be given by Cedar Hill State Park staff throughout the weekend. Times to be determined.

SILENT AUCTION

- A silent auction will be held 2:30PM – 4:00PM, Saturday, March 12.
- Funds raised from the auction will be used to cover costs of the Challenge.
- Funds not used will be held for Texas Challenge 2006 and/or the texasgeocaching.com website.
- Participants are encouraged to collect and donate items for the auction.

FOOD AND DRINK

- A BBQ Dinner provided by Dickey's BBQ will be served 2:30PM – 4:00PM, Saturday, March 12.
- Cost is \$7.00. Tickets should be purchased at the time of registration.
- No alcoholic beverages allowed.

POKER RUN

- A Poker Run will be held 9:30AM – 11:00AM, Sunday, March 13.

- Details to follow.

OTHER

All participants are requested to play and act nice and respect each other and Mother Nature. Oh yeah... and have fun too!