



## **305 Policy on GPS based recreation activity**

### **Policy Statement**

The North Country Trail Association recognizes that GPS based recreation activities such as geocaching, virtual caching, letterboxing, Pokémon Go © and others, offer unique and social approaches to exploring the outdoors that may appeal to a growing segment of trail users, especially youth. The Association also recognizes the potential impacts of practicing these activities, which may include resource degradation, infringement of property rights, and/or conflicts with Leave No Trace trail use ethics.

Therefore, to minimize these concerns and retain the integrity of the trail experience and its resources, the Association endorses GPS based recreation activities along the North Country National Scenic Trail only under the following conditions:

1. All activities are in line with the nature and purposes of the North Country National Scenic Trail as outlined in the National Park Service's Foundation Document;
2. These activities must be in line with the policies of the appropriate land manager and/or land owner;
3. Activities with a physical presence on the ground should be reviewed by the appropriate NCTA Chapter or Affiliate.
4. Written permission must be obtained in advance from the appropriate land manager and/or land owner, providing a specific location for the activity and timeframe if applicable;
5. Proper care must be taken, both by those establishing the cache and the users, to avoid damage caused by digging or trampling of vegetation, archeological evidence, trail tread or other fragile resources in the area, and;
6. The impacts of this use should be monitored over time.