



ColdCaching

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The Ice Age Trail traces a thousand miles' worth of geological formations across Wisconsin. These formations tell a story about what happened

here thousands of years before. But it's not often easy for the untrained eye to read the landscape and find the evidence. So, to help unlock the secrets of the Ice Age, there's an activity called ColdCaching.

WHAT IS "COLD CACHING"?

ColdCaching is a quest to find geological features along the Ice Age Trail. It works like a game of "X marks the spot." Hiking and navigating by GPS (Global Positioning System), you find your way to the exact location of a geological feature along the Trail. Log three finds and the awards (a series of patches) start kicking in.



ColdCache sites are everywhere on the Trail, and volunteers develop new ones all the time. Sites wait for you at well-known landmarks like Balanced Rock at Devil's Lake State Park and Stone Elephant in the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest. They can also be well-kept secrets like a ford in Weber Woods and the ridges and swales in Point Beach State Forest.

HOW DO I SEARCH FOR A COLD CACHING SITE?

The first step is to create a free account at Geocaching.com. The account grants access to the geographic coordinates for ColdCache sites. It also allows you to take credit for your finds and share them with the online caching community.

Next, choose a cache you'd like to find from the ColdCache list (www.tinyurl.com/ColdCache) and grab its coordinates. From there, find the spot using a GPS unit or a smartphone with a GeoCaching App (find these at www.geocaching.com).

If you don't have a smartphone or GPS unit, never fear. "Some libraries have GPS units that can be checked out just like a book," says Dolly McNulty, ColdCache program coordinator. Google Maps can also stand in for a GPS unit in a pinch. "If you enter the ColdCache site coordinates in the address space, it will show you where it is located. For some

ColdCache sites, this may be accurate enough to find the site without a GPS unit." An Ice Age Trail Atlas can also help.



A portion of the Niagara Escarpment is nestled in the woods at this ColdCache site in Potawatomi State Park, Door County. Photo by Dolly McNulty.

To claim credit for your ColdCache find, after visiting the site in person you must complete a set of questions about each site and log your find. To start keeping track, download the awards program log at www.tinyurl.com/CacheLog, or use your smartphone to scan the QR code below.

HOW DID THE PROGRAM GET STARTED?

The ColdCaching program is coordinated by Dolly McNulty of Two Rivers, Wisconsin. She has made it her mission to bring more visitors to the Trail and promote public awareness, appreciation, and understanding of Wisconsin's glacial landscape.

Dolly learned about Caching while researching ways to draw new users to the Trail. "I was immediately intrigued because I believed it would also be a great way to support our educational goals," she said. She now helps identify and create ColdCache sites and works at ColdCache events, and she's led grade-school groups on ColdCaching hikes. The idea is catching. "12 participants and leader Leah Bradley from the 2012 [Milwaukee] Summer Saunters Program have earned their Snowflake level patch," she said.

NOW GO!

Ready to go on your own ColdCache hunt? Get started at www.iceagetrail.org/hiking-awards-and-programs, or use your smartphone to scan the QR code.



Volunteers are welcome to help develop ColdCache sites, lead ColdCache hikes, and facilitate ColdCache simulations. Would you like to get involved? Email coldcache@iceagetrail.org.