

Sacred Grove Academy

A Pagan Cover School Ministry of Church of the Spiral Tree

Summer 2015

Sacred Grove Academy
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Sacred Grove Academy is a church school operated under legal code 16-28-1, 16-28-3, 16-28-7, and 16-46-3 (church school law) of the State of Alabama



No Fee Increase For Currently Enrolled Families!

For all re-enrolling families, the 2015-2016 tuition is STILL \$75 per family, no matter how many children. However, 2015-2016 is the last year we will offer a family tuition rate for re-enrolling families. Starting now for brand-new families, and in June 2016 for those of you currently enrolled, tuition will be \$75 for the first child, and \$25 for each additional child. So for our current families, there is no fee increase this year. ☺

Email Addresses

Do you have email? If you are receiving this newsletter via snail-mail, that means we either don't have a working email address for you, or no response was sent back when we emailed this newsletter to you. As we send a lot of communications to families via email, including changes to policies and fees, newsletters, and reminders about deadlines, we just want to make sure that everyone who has an email address listed is actually *receiving* our emails. So if you do have a working email address that you check on a regular basis, please email it to us. And if at any point in the future your email address changes or if you no longer have access to your email, please let us know as soon as possible.

Geocaching- Hi Tech Treasure Hunt

Reviewed by Diane Flynn Keith
Provider: Eduscapes.com

From:
<www.homeschoolbuyersco-op.org/homeschool-curriculum/eduscapes-com/>



Geocaching (pronounced "geo-cashing") is a navigation game and treasure hunt for GPS users. What's GPS? It's a Global Positioning System or radio navigation device that allows people to determine their exact location (on land, sea, or air) anywhere in the world.

Players use their GPS device to participate in a "cache hunt." What's a cache? It's a place where some kind of treasure (in this case, a small toy or trinket or collectible) is hidden. The cache is usually stored in a waterproof container along with a logbook.

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If You Move:

If you move to a new residence within the state of Alabama, and you move into a different public school district, you **MUST** send in a new Enrollment Form for the new school district, **immediately** (don't wait for re-enrollment time!). You do not have to inform the previous school district that you have moved, but you do need to let the new one know that you are enrolled in a church school; otherwise you will be subject to truancy laws.



Attendance Forms Due by August 1

Attendance forms for 2014-2015 are due now, and must be received by August 1. Your completed attendance forms are essential to fulfilling the letter of the law, and without them, you will not be able to re-enroll for the following year, even if you have sent the \$75 tuition fee.

NEW: Submit your attendance through our website!

<www.sacredgroveacademy.org/forms/Attendance/form.html>

You can also email your attendance forms; either by scanning and emailing your handwritten copies, or by emailing your Word or Excel document.

Re-Enrollment Deadline: August 1

The deadline for sending in your attendance forms and for re-enrolling is AUGUST 1. All enrollments will officially end on July 1; however, you can re-enroll for the 2015-2016 school year beginning anytime after June 1. The tuition is \$75 per family. In order to re-enroll, you must send the \$75 tuition, and your previous years' attendance forms. You do not have to fill out a new Enrollment Form, unless you have recently moved.

Late Re-Enrollments With Notice:

If you contact us PRIOR TO AUGUST 1 to tell us you will be late: You will have a grace period of 30 days, until August 31, to send in your re-enrollment tuition for the upcoming school year. There will be a late fee of \$25 per family, which must be paid, in addition to the \$75 tuition, for a total of \$100 per family (no discounts are available to CST members in the case of late re-enrollments), before you will be considered to be re-enrolled. Please note that if your late re-enrollment is not received by August 31, we will begin

un-enrollment procedures.

If You Miss the August 1 Deadline:

If you have not re-enrolled by August 1 and have not contacted us to let us know you will be late, you'll be considered withdrawn, and we will send the obligatory letter to the school board stating such. You can re-enroll after that time, but you will need to pay the \$25 admission fee per child in addition to the \$75 tuition, and fill out both the Enrollment Form (CSEF) and the Admission Form again.

How to Pay for Your Re-Enrollment:

We accept re-enrollment tuition payments either via check or money order sent regular mail, or over the web using PayPal. You can use this free service to pay for your renewal each summer.

The link to pay via PayPal is
<www.sacredgroveacademy.org/Paypal.html>.

Transcripts Policy

The parent/teacher must supply the subjects and grades for the student, using the Transcript Request Form. Sacred Grove does not know what your child studied nor what his/her grades were. Parents must turn in attendance forms BEFORE an official transcript will be made. If the student has not turned in an attendance form, we will send a letter stating no work can be verified. Official transcripts will not be made for non-graduating students withdrawing before the end of the school year. If a student withdraws during the school year to transfer to another school, parents will need to negotiate admission to another school on that school's terms, without a transcript from Sacred Grove Academy. Official transcripts will not be made for partial years of less than three months. For any partial year of the student's enrollment, we will send a letter stating no work can be verified. All fees must be paid before a transcript is sent to the parent, school, or college. All transcripts will be mailed, unless a fax is requested and the extra fee (\$5) paid. Every effort will be made to complete the request within 14 days, but Sacred Grove reserves the right to take up to 30 days to complete the request. Note that you may request a rush for an extra \$15 (this does not include the fax fee).

Withdrawal Policies:

All enrollments end on July 1. If you do not re-enroll by August 1, you will be considered withdrawn, but may re-enroll at any point in the future, as long as all other policies have been adhered to. After August 1, an official letter to your local school superintendent will be sent stating that you are no longer enrolled in Sacred Grove Academy (as required by state law).

You can also officially withdraw from Sacred Grove at any time during the school year. ****No refunds will be given at any time.**** Families withdraw for various reasons, including sending their children back to public school, or moving out-of-state. To officially withdraw during the school year, just send a notice to Sacred Grove by mail or by email, stating that you are withdrawing. An official letter to your local school superintendent will then be sent stating that you are no longer enrolled in Sacred Grove Academy.

Removals & Improper Withdrawals:

NOTE: After *any* official or improper withdrawal or removal, an official letter to your local school superintendent will be sent stating that you are no longer enrolled in Sacred Grove Academy, and we will send a letter to your last known address stating the same. If you are not enrolled anywhere else, you will be subject to truancy laws.

You will be removed from enrollment with Sacred Grove if:

- You do not send your child's previous years' attendance forms in by August 1;
- If you write a worthless check, and restitution is not made within 30 days (civil charges may apply); or if any other fees are in arrears and are not paid within 30 days.

In the above cases, until your fees or forms are mailed in to us, no

records or information will be released about your child to you or to subsequent schools that may request such, nor will we provide diplomas, transcripts, letters giving date of withdrawal for purposes of GED, driver's license, or other reason, or any other information requested about that child. Furthermore, if attendance forms are not received within 12 months of your withdrawal (for example, 2014-2015 forms sent in by August 1, 2016), all of the above will apply, and no one in your family will be allowed to enroll or re-enroll in Sacred Grove Academy at any point in the future for any reason.

You will be considered to be improperly withdrawn if:

- If your summer or winter newsletter is returned undeliverable because you have moved and not sent in a change of address, and we cannot then get in touch with you by phone or email; as we will have no way of knowing whether you are still in your original school district or even in the state (Note: if your newsletter comes back, we make a reasonable attempt to contact you before removing you from the rolls);
- We discover that you have enrolled your child in a different school when that school sends us a request for your child's records, and you have not officially withdrawn (NOTE: We will NOT send any information without receiving an official withdrawal from you!)

In the above cases, no one in your family will be allowed to enroll or re-enroll at any point in the future for any reason, and no records or information will be released to you or to subsequent schools that may request such, nor will we provide diplomas, transcripts, letters giving date of withdrawal for purposes of GED, driver's license, or other reason, or any other information requested, AT ALL for that child.

Build Your Own Stonehenge Activity

by Dennis Randall

From:

fun.familyeducation.com/outdoor-games/ancient-world/35028.html

Age: 8 and up

Time: 1 to 2 hours

Type of Activity: Science

Materials needed:

- Center stake for reference point.
- 50 feet of rope.
- 20 to 30 marker stones or small stakes.
- A compass.

Here's a unique way to celebrate the solstice: Build your own Stonehenge. As you might know, Stonehenge is one of the oldest (4,000+ years) and best known astronomical calendar sites in the world. You can recreate it without going through the bother of lugging 25 to 50 ton slabs of rock around the neighborhood. All you'll need is a bit of ambition, and a location offering an unobstructed view of the eastern or western horizon. Locations offering a 360° horizon view are ideal (and rare).

What to do

The first thing you'll need to do is create a viewing circle. Anchor a reference stake at the center point of the circle and place your compass on top of it. Find due north and place a marker at 50 feet north of the center. Repeat the process for east, west and south. (The rope is used as a guide to insure that all markers are equidistant from the center stake.) Again, using the rope as a guide, place a small marker stone every few feet around the perimeter of your circle. The center of the circle now becomes your fixed reference point and the westward facing perimeter is where you'll be placing the sunset markers.

The calendar can be started at any time, but the solstice sunsets are the most fun. Mark the point of sunset with a pole, stake or other (not easily moved) marker. Tag the marker with the date of sunset.

Repeat the process every seven days or so. Over the weeks and months you'll note that the sun appears to "walk" faster at some times of the year than others. When you've finished (in a year's time) you'll have a working astronomical calendar and an excuse to invite friends and classmates over to the house to check the date.

Non-construction alternatives

Photo-op: Take a snapshot of the western skyline and tape it to the wall by a western facing window. With a felt tip marker draw an arrow on the photo corresponding to the point of sunset and note the date. Repeat the process.

Window marks: (This takes two people.) Standing at the same point in the room of a western facing window, have the other person make a small mark on the glass where the sun sets. Note the date and repeat the process on a

weekly basis.

How it works

The principle behind an astronomical calendar is simple. The apparent rising and setting horizon point of the sun changes with each passing day. The different points correspond to different days of the year.

At minimum, an astronomical calendar only requires a fixed reference point for viewing and another fixed reference point marking the position of the rising and/or setting sun on the horizon.

In the Northern Hemisphere, if you were to watch a time-lapse movie of a year's worth of sunsets, you would notice that the sun appears to "walk" back and forth across the western horizon. The winter solstice marks the southern limit of the sun's journey and the summer solstice is the northern boundary. Closer examination would reveal that, with the exception of the two solstice extremes, every other point on the horizon is crossed twice during the course of the year. Once on the southern march and again on the northern return.

At the time of the winter and summer solstices, (around December 22 and June 22) the sun is directly overhead at either the Tropic of Cancer (summer) or the Tropic of Capricorn (winter). In the Northern Hemisphere these dates mark the beginnings of summer and winter and the days of the longest and shortest hours of daylight.

Read more on FamilyEducation:
<http://fun.familyeducation.com/outdoor-games/ancient-world/35028.html#ixzz3do61eESP>

REMINDERS

Please do not mail any school work to our office! Also, please do not have your former school(s) mail any previous school records to us. We do not need any of these items. You, the parent, are the teacher, and as such, are fully responsible for grading, and keeping and maintaining school work and records.

What We Do NOT Provide:

- Curriculum (books, etc.)
- Teachers to come to your home
- Teachers at our office to check work or give grades
- An accredited school or program (no cover school in Alabama is accredited)

Join our Sacred Grove Facebook group!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/190035067717206/>



Geocaching: Cont. From Page 1

Geocaching organizations set up caches in indoor and outdoor locations worldwide and then post the waypoints to the location on the Internet. Players input the location coordinates into their GPS receiver and follow the directions to find the cache. Because people are very creative when it comes to placing a cache, it can be more challenging than it sounds to find one. Geocaching is so popular that there are now hundreds of thousands of caches in countries worldwide.

The twist with this modern-day treasure hunt, is that when you find the cache, you don't necessarily keep what you find. Sometimes you simply enter the fact that you found the treasure in the logbook stored in the cache. Sometimes you are instructed to replace the treasure you find with another treasure. Then, you place the treasure you found in another cache. Each time a player takes or places a treasure in a cache, they make a note of it in the logbook. That way, future visitors to the cache can see who else has been there before them.

Geocaching is a fun and educational family activity. At today's website, you will find detailed information about one family's experiences with geocaching. They provide all of the basic info, some leads to fun cache locations, and ideas for how to integrate the study of geography, nature, culture, and history into geocaching. Their website directs you to the most popular website on the topic of geocaching where you will find everything you need to know to get started on your own geocaching adventures. Here's the url:



Geocaching - The Official Global GPS Cache Hunt Site
<http://www.geocaching.com/>
By the way, "Home Education Magazine" ran an interesting article by Lori Diehl about her family's geocaching experiences. You can read it here: "Geocaching - High-tech Treasure Hunting," <<http://homeedmag.com/HEM/242/geocaching.html>>.

Some of you may notice the similarity of geocaching to letterboxing. Letterboxing doesn't require the use of a GPS device. So for those of you who would like a more low-tech version of a modern day treasure hunt visit this letterboxing site, Letterboxing.org-
<http://www.letterboxing.org/>

Attendance Form - Version A

School Year: _____ - _____

Student's Name: _____ Grade Just Completed: _____

Parent's Name: _____ Do you intend to re-enroll for the upcoming school year? _____

Parent's Email: _____ Do you check this email regularly? _____

Address: _____

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
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19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
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27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
31	31		31		31	31		31		31	

MONTHLY TOTAL

Circle days designated as educational.

Attendance Record - Version B

Student's Name: _____

Grade Just Completed: _____ **School Year:** _____ - _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Email: _____

Do you check this email regularly? _____

Address: _____

Do you intend to re-enroll for the upcoming school year? _____

	Month Total	Year Total
July	_____	_____
August	_____	_____
September	_____	_____
October	_____	_____
November	_____	_____
December	_____	_____
January	_____	_____
February	_____	_____
March	_____	_____
April	_____	_____
May	_____	_____
June	_____	_____

Have You Moved? If so, have you notified us?

If you move to a new residence within the state of Alabama, and you move into a *different public school district*, you **MUST** send in a new Enrollment Form for the new school district, ***immediately*** (don't wait for re-enrollment time!). You do not have to inform the previous school district that you have moved, but you do need to let the new one know that you are enrolled in a church school; otherwise you will be subject to truancy laws.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

