

Activity B4 Youth Favorite Places

Note: the procedures described below are for use with the yellow Garmin eTrex GPS receivers (the model supplied in the basic Virginia 4-H GPS Educational Kits). The instructions can easily be altered for use with other GPS receiver models.

Introduction:

Now that you have introduced students to the basics of marking positions (waypoints) with a GPS receiver, it is time to help them explore ways to apply this knowledge. You may be familiar with the “4-H Youth Favorite Places” (YFP) project. If not, go to <http://www.youthfavoriteplaces.org/index.php> for details.

The YFP activities can help your group accomplish the following:

- Learn about key natural resources and cultural and recreational sites in your community.
- Share and promote your favorite local natural resources and cultural and recreational sites.
- Visit the favorite places of other youth when on interstate exchanges, field trips, and vacation.
- Participate in building a national database as a 4-H community service project.
- Learn new skills or how to apply their existing skills, such as
 - Using GPS receivers
 - Using digital cameras and photo editing
 - Using databases
 - Reading maps
 - Researching background material
 - writing technical information
 - Collaborating with other organizations or agencies
 - Working in a team

Time Involved: Variable

Materials Needed:

Access to the Internet, GPS receivers (optional), Digital camera or capability of scanning photos (optional), Also see: <http://www.youthfavoriteplaces.org/list.php>

Getting Started:

Visit “4-H Youth Favorite Places” website and take a close look at all the great opportunities for group activities. Register you and your group on the YFP website. Members of your group will then be able to add their favorite places to the national database.

If you will be using GPS receivers, follow these steps to get them ready for use. Set your receivers to the decimal degrees position format (hddd.ddddd) and the NAD83 (=WGS84) map datum. Also see “*Preparing GPS Receivers for Group Activities*”.

Do the Activity:

From the “4-H Youth Favorite Places” website:

“What is a Youth Favorite Place? A place you like to be to . . . watch, read, sing, hang out, play, dance, compete, learn, run, think, listen, walk, talk, sit, dream.

A favorite place is someplace special, a place you can only find in your community. It is a place, not an event, perhaps the Fairgrounds, but not the State Fair. It is a public place: a place anyone can go even though there may be age or size restrictions, limits on the time it is open, limits on what you can do there, or a fee charged to enter. It is a place of natural, cultural, or recreational interest.

Ask your learners to each pick their favorite place. Have them write a brief description of the place, tell why it is their favorite, and identify location information. The website provides a format for this under “Add Your Favorite Place”. The required location coordinates can be determined with a GPS receiver, from a suitable map, or by using the website’s link to TopoZone (<http://www.topozone.com>) or Terraserver (<http://terraserver-usa.com>). With your assistance, learners can add their entry to the national 4-H Youth Favorite Places database. Although it not required, a photo of each favorite place can be submitted as well. You, as the leader, must approve each entry from your group in order for it to be displayed on the national website.

You also may want to provide opportunities for your learners to explore the favorite places of other youth across the country.
Click on <http://www.youthfavoriteplaces.org/index.php> to access the national database.”

Background Information:

See <http://www.youthfavoriteplaces.org/index.php> for details about the 4-H Youth Favorite Places program.

Note: Comments and suggestions regarding this activity and other components of the Virginia 4-H GPS curriculum are appreciated. Please contact Mike Clifford at: mjc4h@vt.edu / 804-561-5411 / 11131 Amelia Springs Rd., Jetersville, VA 23083