



February 2, 2012
Immediate Release

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MESQUITE GEOCACHING CHALLENGE SET TO KICK-OFF MARCH 10

Mesquite, TX... There's really not a much better way to learn about the community and its history than to take the upcoming Q125 Mesquite Geocaching Challenge. Sites across the entire city will have official 125th anniversary caches placed and ready to be found by the kick-off, which is scheduled for 10 a.m., March 10 – the first Saturday of Mesquite ISD Spring Break.

"We've chosen this time of year because geocaching is a great activity for families, friends – people of all ages," said Rona Lee Price, event chair for Historic Mesquite, Inc. "With the students out of school, we hope to introduce this popular pastime to a whole new crowd."

Geocaching, or a modern pioneering exercise with GPS coordinates, has become a world-wide phenomenon. New caches are introduced into countries in all the different continents at a rapid pace. Mesquite is very fortunate to have resident experienced geocachers, who have been willing to give up their time – and in some cases, disabling their own caches – to make sure this Challenge is a success.

"We've been discussing the creation of a city-sponsored geocaching activity for awhile now," said Cliff Keheley, Director of Mesquite Parks and Recreation. "Our team of geocachers working on this project has purposefully designed the Challenge not only for the novice to get involved, but also for the more knowledgeable geocachers. We hope to see Mesquite residents and those beyond our boundaries out and about in the City looking for – and completing – our enhanced treasure hunt."

Price will introduce the Challenge March 10 at the Florence Ranch Homestead, 1424 Barnes Bridge Road. That day is also traditionally an open house for the Homestead. Anyone interested in the Challenge is welcome to attend. While most of the time, geocachers simply sign a log in the caches when found, some caches have goodies, called "SWAG (Stuff We All Get), inserted. Several of Mesquite's caches will include such SWAG as well as First-to-Find (FTF) awards.

A Q125 Mesquite Challenge website will be launched in the time leading up to the kick-off where participants will be able to learn more about the event. A cache log will be required for determining any gifts or awards to be presented at the concluding ceremony, set for 10 a.m., Aug. 18, which is International Geocaching Day, again at the Florence Ranch.

The Challenge is a cooperative effort between the Historical Preservation Office/Historic Mesquite, Inc., Mesquite Parks and Recreation, and local geocachers.

For more information, call (972) 216-6468.

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