

## **4-H Technology**

### **Erin Taylor**

The 4-H Technology Extension is funded by grants from the Engineering and Technology Industry Council (ETIC) to provide non-formal education for rural 4-H and other youth in gaining technology skills, increasing awareness of science and technology careers, and advancing their entrepreneurial abilities.

In 2007, the number of classes, workshops, presentations, and overall activities was greatly reduced due to medical leave and later in August, Erin's resignation to stay home and care for her new son. While the process of refilling her position is actively underway, it may not occur until late January 2008.

During the first three months of 2007, the 4-H Technology team presented approximately 21 classes and workshops at 11 schools, 12 after-school sites, and 11 community locations in Jackson County. More than 4,100 students participated in 4-H Technology programs.

#### **Podcasting**

In spite of Erin's departure, programs continued on topics such as podcasting. Podcasts are audio files that are available by subscription or for downloading from the internet. Podcasting training gives students the skills and opportunity to create their own radio shows. Students learn to record and edit their sound files, and can then choose to share their podcasts with the internet community.

*Geocaching helps students develop skills in high demand in agriculture, engineering and regional planning.*

#### **School Enrichment Programs**

SOREC provides technology and computer education in Jackson County public schools. Non-formal, skill-building programs include science and engineering programs, as well as projects with computers, digital cameras and Global Positioning System (GPS) units.

#### **Global Positioning System**

In addition, in 2007 SOREC continued to provide students with training in geocaching, an adventure game for GPS users. Caches are hidden in the community by volunteers who then share the coordinates of these caches on the internet. By going to geocaching websites, GPS users can use the information provided to find the caches.

Geocaching is more than just a game – it's an engaging way for young people to hone their GPS and spatial skills. Expertise in GPS systems and spatial analysis are increasingly important in agricultural, engineering and regional planning careers.

Geocaches have been set at Jackson County schools and at the Extension office in an effort to include the public in the program, and to help make the public aware of what the 4-H Technology Extension provides to the community.

Please watch for one of our technology classes or events near you in 2008. Come join us!