

# Geo-Referenced Data Collection

## Instructions



### Using the GPS

It is essential that the GPS be set up correctly.

- Verify that the date and time are correct.
- Verify that the Units are set to Latitude and Longitude in Decimal Degrees (NOT Degrees Minutes or Degrees Minutes Seconds)
- Make sure you have satellite connection which gives you no more than 20-30 feet accuracy prior to marking a waypoint.

### Using the Geo-Referenced Data Collection Field Data Sheet

#### **Entering Waypoints**

- The data sheet provided with this project only provides room for you to list Waypoint numbers (i.e. 001, 002). If you prefer, you can have students actually enter the entire waypoint, meaning the Latitude and Longitude IN DECIMAL DEGREES (NOT in Degrees Minutes or Degrees Minutes Seconds). You may have them write this out in the comments column.

#### **Entering Description of Data Collected**

- Provide as much detail as possible about the data at this location. For instance, if it is a bird or plant, list the genus species and size.

### Transferring the Geo-Referenced Data onto a Spreadsheet

- Use any spreadsheet software, such as Microsoft Excel or AppleWorks.
- Create these column headings: ID, Latitude, Longitude, Data Type, Attributes
- Type each Waypoint and Waypoint description information into a single row.
- Be sure that the Latitude and Longitude are in Decimal Degrees (NOT in Degrees Minutes or Degrees Minutes Seconds!!!!)
- Save this file with an appropriate name without any spaces or punctuation in the file name.