

INSTRUCTIONS

Escape to McMurtrie Nature Preserve

1. **Overview.** This year's Medallion Hunt is set up like an Escape Room meets a nature walk. It's the *Escape to McMurtrie Nature Preserve!* Clues will lead you to locations around the preserve to help you explore the property. You'll learn about nature and the history of the property at guide posts you see in the Trail Guide.
2. **There's** a medallion hidden on the property. That's what you're after. A total of **12** clues will lead you to new locations in the woods. Each location gives you more information that you'll need to find and unlock the medallion.
3. **Nine** AM each Monday in May, a clue sheet will be published online. Three clue sheets each have four puzzles. They require a combination of codebreaking, cartography, cryptography, cruciverbalism, and creative googling. Since we live in the age of smart phones, each clue is "Google-proof" and also "Google-friendly". If you get stuck, use the McMurtrie Trail Guide, the map, this instruction sheet, and the internet. Many clues can't be solved without them!
4. **On** each clue, you'll see a difficulty rating. Each puzzle requires you do some solving before you know where to go, but some of them require more up-front work than others. Tools you should use: the map, instructions, and the Trail Guide. The rating is wildly subjective of whether you need to

★	Take a pleasant stroll through the woods. It should be straightforward!
★★	Solve the puzzle at home first. You'll need to use your tools, but probably not internet.
★★★	Internet will get you started, and your tools will help. Stay observant in the woods!
★★★★	You'll need serious puzzle solving before you know where you're heading.
★★★★★	Break into the top echelon of code-cracking fame. These are tough. You need to solve some of it first, and information found elsewhere will help solve it. They are multi-step!

5. **Once** you solve the puzzle, your "answer" will take you to a location on the preserve. When you get there, you'll find a "letter block" – there's an example on the next page. By identifying all 12 letter blocks, you'll have all you need to find the medallion and crack the final code.
6. **Please** don't worry if you have a hard time with a week's clues. On the next week's clue sheet, we'll give hints to the previous puzzles. You'll be able to look back on ones you missed. *None of the clues are related!* On Friday May 24, we'll publish a final sheet that allows you to crack the code!
7. **To** get considered for a \$50 Amazon gift card, you can log on each week and submit that week's answers. A correct answer will enter you into the pool. (3 weeks means 3 chances to win!)
8. **Some** ground rules:
 - DO NOT TRESPASS. Private property and Out of Bounds are clearly marked on the maps.
 - You can see everything from the trails. No need to wander for a letter block or the medallion.
 - You don't need to climb trees, dig holes, or disturb any nature. Leave no trace.
 - This is designed for lots of people to explore the woods throughout the month of May. If you find pieces of the puzzle in the woods, leave them alone so that others can find and enjoy them too.
9. **We** hope you have fun with the puzzles, but more importantly that you enjoy the preserve!

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EXAMPLE

In the woods, you'll find quite a few "letter blocks" that look like this.
One of these will be your "answer" to a given clue.

Here's an example of what you're in for.

A

1

Clue A) ★

What's this puzzle trying to let you? ADEH OT STOP HEERT.

The misspelling of "tell" is a hint that you should un-jumble the other words. Doing so reveals HEAD TO POST THREE. That reveals a letter block pinned to post three, maybe L-14.

Clue B) ★★★★★

Find the 20xx year this medallion hunt started quizzaciously trending.

[Okay. I don't know that word. And how should I know what year?]

*When you see something like this, Google the key words you've never heard before. That should take you in a direction for what to do. Try it with this one... did you get 20... **15**? It's the year "quizzaciously" took off thanks to a popular YouTuber (<https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?date=all&geo=US&q=quizzaciously>). It's also the first medallion hunt year! Head to post 15, find a letter block. Maybe E-13.*

Clue C) ★★



This pictogram has a few things. There's some dudes... and a key... and an arrow. Dude key arrow. Dude key point. Guys ski Man. Guyski Head. Men Key Head? Menke Head. I'll head to the trailhead of Menke Road! There I find maybe A-8.

Clue D) ★★

Follow the instructions closely to know which post.

[I did. I read them. What?] The word "closely" is in red. That's a hint. If you "follow the instructions", you find that the number 12 is printed in red. Heading to Post 12, I might find D-1.

L

14

E

13

A

8

D

1

Okay! Week 0 is officially done! The website has pages where each week you enter your answer. For this example week, you'd type in "LEAD". If you're correct you get confirmation, and your email will be entered into the drawing for a \$50 gift card. If you're wrong, it'll tell you that too.

That's the word... what about the numbers? Well, we can't tell you that yet. You'll have to keep coming back and wait until May 24th! Just make sure you hang on to each week's answers!

Hopefully this example will *LEAD* you to success!