



# F.J. McELLIGOTT SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Mr. Bill Steer  
National Green Check Certification  
c/o Canadian Ecology Centre  
Box 430  
Mattawa, ON P0H 1V0

December, 2005

## Re: Students and GPS – Green Check

Dear Mr. Steer:

Recently, our students completed a Green Check GSP Certification Program. The students are enrolled in an Outdoor Education Class and had covered topographic maps and navigation with compasses. The day-long trip taught them how to use GPS units in a confident and competent manner. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were abuzz with excitement on the trip home about how much they had learned and how useful the certification would be. One of our students used his certification last week to secure a high-paying position in Alberta's oil patch. His new job will be operating a GPS unit throughout the workday and he is very excited about the opportunity that this workshop has provided.

The National Green Check Certification Program fits in perfectly with the curriculum in Outdoor Education. The best part was how the instructor at the Canadian Ecology Centre tied in all of the mapping concepts so that the students really developed a good grasp on what they were being taught. They were allowed to master the material before moving on to a new concept and really benefited from the teacher to student ratio. As a bonus, a group of people taking the GPS Trainer Course were on hand to give our students one-on-one instruction in the field.

I am looking forward to becoming a trainer in order to certify our own students. The certification is becoming a sought-after accreditation, as our students have learned. The skills learned are important to those encountering the need to identify and collect spatial information. The curriculum package is comprehensive and includes a variety of activities that we can use to extend and add value to our Outdoor Education Program.

I cannot recommend enough the Green Check GPS curriculum and the program for teachers and students.

Sincerely,

Keith Dillabough

Teacher

F.J. McElligott Secondary School  
Mattawa, Ontario