

1096-M1-1845 **Julie Barnes*** (jbarnes@email.wcu.edu), Department of Mathematics & Computer Science,
Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723. *Hosting mathematics treasure
hunts*. Preliminary report.

In this activity, students work noncompetitively in teams to solve a variety of mathematics problems in order to collect clues that lead them to a treasure (once literally buried in dirt from the geosciences lab). The event has increased camaraderie between mathematics, mathematics education, and computer science students, but also increased visibility of our department because some students brought their friends to the event. In addition, students discovered areas of the building in which they typically do not venture. I have worked with colleagues from my department to create treasure hunts for our math club, but have also organized hunts with colleagues from my section for students that attend our section meetings. The version we run at the MAA section meeting is very similar, but larger in scale with roughly 80 - 100 students participating. Running a Mathematics Treasure Hunt does not have to cost much, and runs smoothly as long as you have enough volunteers to help. No matter how you run it, it is always a lot of fun. (Received September 16, 2013)