

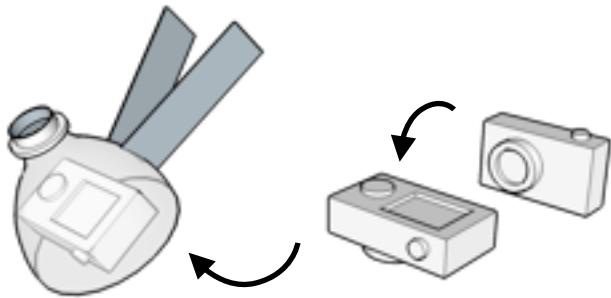


# Mapping Checklist

*Be sure everything is in your bag before leaving!*

## **A** Your bag should contain:

- A camera with auto-shooting** (test it!)
- TWO sets of FULLY CHARGED batteries**
- 1500' of string on a reel, no tangles**
- At least one weather balloon in a protective ziploc** (two is best, or bring giant trash bags as backup)
- Gloves to protect your hands from burn**
- Duct tape AND clear packing tape**
- Scissors or a knife**
- Soft cotton string to tie everything together** (holds balloons better and cuts easier)
- A soda bottle with wings:**



### Optional:

- A large kite (16 sq ft or more)**
- A GPS or an iPhone or Android phone to get a latitude/longitude point**  
(so we can make it into a map)

## **B** You also need HELIUM from:

- Louisiana Bucket Brigade HQ, 4226 Canal St, New Orleans**

- Party City** (one \$45 medium tank, \$100 deposit)

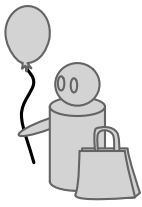
**Party City** (9-9pm mon-sat, 11-6pm sun)  
1545 Lapalco Boulevard  
Harvey, LA 70058-3300  
(504) 362-8008

**Party City** (9-9pm mon-sat, 11-6pm sun)  
3009 Veterans Memorial Boulevard  
Metairie, LA 70002-6046  
(504) 831-9944

- Anywhere else, just bring > 50 cubic feet, but small enough to carry.**

## **C** Finally, bring people:

- See [GrassrootsMapping.org/volunteers](http://GrassrootsMapping.org/volunteers)**
- Give them directions or carpool**
- Teach them how, don't do it all yourself**



# Mapping Overview

## *A brief summary of the whole thing*

---

### **A** Starting your trip:

- \* Louisiana Bucket Brigade is hosting the **equipment bags** - go pick on up the night before and confirm that everything's there.
- \* Be sure to bring some new people - folks who will hopefully lead their own trips soon
- \* Charge batteries the night before!
- \* Pick up helium at Party City - see Checklist for addresses

### **B** While you're mapping:

- \* Try to map an area that's been mapped before, so we can compare.
- \* If you have an smartphone, enable the geotagging for the camera, and take a picture while you're flying
  - \* This will capture a location; submit the photo with your data and we'll be able to see where you were
  - \* To enable this on your iPhone, click the Settings icon > General > Location Services.
  - \* For Android, in the Camera app, press Menu, then Settings > Store location. Wait for the green 'GPS' icon:

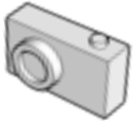


### **C** Keep safety in mind:

- \* Wear protective gear when dealing with contaminated water/land
  - \* protective suit, oil resistant gloves, safety goggles, face respirator, slip resistant boots
- \* Don't handle oiled wildlife unless you're trained to do so!

### **D** Before you go home:

- \* Thank the boat captain! See if we could get another ride in the next few days
- \* Go over the checklist again to be sure you return everything
- \* Identify any potential trip leaders from your team, who could map on their own
- \* Leave a copy of your data with Louisiana Bucket Brigade
- \* Please make 3-5 reports on the Oil Spill Crisis Map ([oilspill.labucketbrigade.org](http://oilspill.labucketbrigade.org)) when you get back from your trip!
  - \* Reports boats deploying boom, dolphins swimming in oil or sheen on the water
  - \* Focus on what you see or smell, your location and capture pictures or video clips.
  - \* Quick tip: simply take a picture of the GPS on the boat or write down the coordinates.
  - \* Submit these reports online or when you return to LABB to drop off your equipment.



# Camera Guidelines

This is for a:  
Canon SD1000

*Be sure you can use your camera before leaving!*

## A Basic usage:

- \* Test your camera before you leave!
  - \* Just turn it on; it should flash a red icon and start snapping!
- 
- (Logo)
- \* You should see: “Intervalometer” and it should beep and snap a picture within a few seconds
  - \* If it doesn't, take a picture normally, and it should start.
  - \* To turn the camera off when you're done, just take out the battery.
  - \* After flights, check your photos to see if they came out.
    - \* The camera should be in “auto” mode, so exposure etc. should be fine.
    - \* If images are blurry there may not be enough light, or it may be too windy.

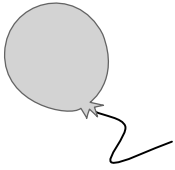
## B Troubleshooting:

- \* Check if the memory card is in the ‘Locked’ position. There’s a little slider; lock it. The script won’t run if it’s not locked, weird, huh?
- \* If your camera keeps turning off by itself (either after a dozen shots, or sometimes in the middle of a flight) you need to charge the battery to 100%. If your battery is old, you may need a new battery.
- \* If you simply cannot get it to start auto-shooting, try:
  - \* Turn the camera off
  - \* Turn it on in “Review” mode
  - \* Press Menu and go down to the last option, which should be “Firmware update”
  - \* Click OK and quickly switch into “Capture” mode
  - \* You should see the red CHDK screen and it should start. You may need to manually take a picture to start it.

## C When you get home:

- \* Save a copy of the images in a safe place: a CD/DVD or backup drive
- \* Then send us the pictures and we'll publish them. Choose:
  - \* Upload the data to <http://grassrootsmapping.org/upload>
  - \* Put a copy on a USB key or a DVD, and get it to:

*LA Bucket Brigade, 4226 Canal St. New Orleans, LA ZIPCODE*



# Balloon/Kite Flying Guide

*The best way to learn is to do it with someone who's done it before*

---

**?**

## Kite or Balloon?

- \* In general, kites are good in more than 15 mph and balloons in less than 10 mph wind. Check a weather website. Wind is highest at 2pm, lowest at dawn.
- \* Kites are expensive but balloons require helium.
- \* Kiting is hard. Learn from an experienced kiter, and try it closer to home before committing to a mapping trip.

**K**

## Kiting

- \* First get the kite flying. You need a large kite (more than 10 square feet, like a Sutton Flowform 16).
- \* Get the kite in the air at least 50 feet and make sure it's pulling more than 10 lbs consistently.
- \* Make a loop (take some slack and knot it) and clip the camera in its rig onto the loop. Start your camera and let it up.
- \* Keeping tension on the line, or pulling on it, makes the kite fly higher. Letting it out makes it drop, so do it slowly.
- \* Walk around to cover a large area.

**B**

## Ballooning

- \* If you're using a trash bag, tape the bag shut carefully with clear packing tape.
  - \* Puncture it 2 inches away from the seam, so the tape won't interfere with your filling.
  - \* Don't do this on rough ground or you'll puncture the trash bag.
- \* Pull the hole over the nozzle of the tank. bunch up some plastic around the nozzle and hold it tightly shut.
  - \* Watch out! Keep your fingers away from where the helium will come out!
- \* Starting very slowly, inflate the balloon. It should be about 5 feet wide, and should pull strongly up, i.e. 2-3 lbs. Use your height as a size guide.
  - \* Have a friend hold the balloon in place while it fills. Don't let it touch ANYTHING sharp!
  - \* Don't let go of the balloon! Always have someone in charge of holding on to it tightly!
- \* Tie off the balloon with a VERY good knot. Clove hitch recommended (youtube or google it). Practice this knot.
- \* Make a loop 6 inches below the balloon. Test all knots, and connect the camera.
- \* Turn on the camera and make sure it's auto-shooting; listen for beeps.
- \* Let the balloon rise as fast as you can; as soon as you resist it, the wind will blow it down.
- \* Walk around to cover a large area.